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**From:** "Person, Fran" <fran\_person@ovp.eop.gov>  
**To:** robinware456@gmail.com  
**Bcc:** robinware456@gmail.com  
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----- Original Message -----

From: Bulletin News <VP-Editors@BulletinNews.com>

To: Alexander, Elizabeth; [REDACTED]

Cc: Escudero, Adrian V.; Hoffman, Alan L.; Tomasini, AnnMarie; Bernal, Anthony R.; Blinken, Antony J.; Woyak, Brian J.; McKeon, Brian P.; Russell, Catherine M.; O'Donnell, Courtney; Hogan, Cynthia C.; DL-OVP-National Security; Martens, Donald R.; Hire, Elisabeth; Oxhorn, Elizabeth A.; Allen, Elizabeth M.; Ryan, Evan M.; Person, Fran; Ziskend, Herbert M.; Carney, James F.; Bernstein, Jared; Wolfsthal, Jon B.; O'Connor, Kevin C.; White, Kirsten B.; membersOVPVPMILAIDE@whmo.mil <membersOVPVPMILAIDE@whmo.mil>; Donilon, Michael C.; Smith, Michele; Vela, Moises V.; Page, Michelle M.; Orloff, Nancy; Isaac, Nicole M.; Selfridge, Peter A.; Bleshman, Rachel; Klain, Ronald A.; Swan, Ryan S.; Fletcher, Sarah; Rosenthal, Sarah L.; Mayer, Shawna S.; Henry, Sudafi; McSweeney, Terrell P.; McNulty, Thomas P.; Dirksen, Ward F.

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Subject: Vice Presidential News Clips for Wednesday, June 9, 2010

TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT AND STAFF

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2010 -- 6:15 AM EDT

-----TODAY'S EDITION-----

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- + Espionage Case Set For Sentencing (WILNJ)
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FOIA-6

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  - + Biden Praises Kenya, Discusses E.Africa Stability (AFP)
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  - + Flotilla Clash Still Making Waves In Middle East Politics (CNN)
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- 

#### WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES:

##### CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICKUPS NOW DELAWARE LAW (WILNJ)

By Jeff Montgomery, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

Delaware will phase in a universal curbside recycling mandate starting next year under a landmark measure signed Tuesday by Gov. Jack Markell.

The law also spells the end of the state's long-maligned 5-cent beverage bottle deposit law. A 4-cent per bottle, non-refundable fee will take its place on Dec. 1, then expire in 2014, with proceeds used to support initial recycling work.

Republican critics have alleged that the new fee is a camouflaged tax that could face a court challenge.

Under the new law, all waste haulers statewide must begin offering every-other-week curbside recycling pickups by Sept. 15, 2011 as part of their regular services, starting with single family homes, restaurants and bars. Service must expand to multi-family dwellings by January 1, 2013, and remaining businesses by Jan. 1, 2014.

Recycling will remain voluntary for state residents, although state officials plan to step up public education programs and efforts to promote the environmental and economic benefits of not wasting.

"Recycling is going to help us save money, improve our environment and create new jobs," Markell said during a brief ceremony near the slopes of Cherry Island Landfill in east Wilmington, Delaware's busiest waste disposal site.

The program, Markell added, will "restrain the cost of waste, it will reduce burdens on businesses and it will significantly increase recycling."

Along with the curbside recycling mandate, the law set a 50 percent municipal waste recycling goal to be reached by Jan. 1, 2015, and a 60 percent target for Jan. 1, 2020 -- higher than surrounding states and double the highest estimates of the state's current rate.

Proceeds from the new 4-cent bottle fee will be earmarked for grants, loans and other startup subsidies to offset equipment costs. Lawmakers capped total collections from the recycling fee at \$22 million, potentially forcing its cutoff before 2014.

Residents can continue to return bottles and reclaim 5-cent deposits from merchants until Feb. 1.

"I think it's going to be a big help. If it's something that's going to benefit this environment, yes, they should do it," said Judith Burris, a longtime resident of the Fairwinds community in Bear. "I know that it already has become more popular here. Not everybody is doing it, by any means, but a number of people do have their recycling picked up already."

DSWA will continue major landfill-based recycling programs and some Recycle Delaware drop off centers. Its own curbside pickup program -- which grew to tens of thousands of customers -- will end once private and municipal haulers are required to provide the service.

Sen. David B. McBride, D-Hawks Nest, who sponsored the Senate bill, said individuals and groups had been working for many of his 32 years in the General Assembly pushing for legislation to



boost recycling.

The legislation cleared the General Assembly earlier this year after months of compromise talks launched by Markell last year. That effort picked up steam after Markell vetoed a bill last summer that would have simply repealed the state's 5-cent bottle deposit, without provisions for keeping bottles out of landfills.

Lawmakers approved the plan just ahead of a planned 50 percent rate increase for much of the household waste disposed at the Delaware Solid Waste Authority's landfills in all three counties.

"This is a real good opportunity to do it right," said Tom Houska, who represents Waste Management Inc.'s Delaware operations. "It gives everybody plenty of time to plan a transition. There's a lot involved."

Houska said his company could expand its residential service workforce by as much as 50 percent once the law takes effect.

Markell said that competition should hold down costs, allowing customers to shop for haulers with the best rates. Stepped up recycling should meanwhile hold down disposal costs for haulers, giving them savings that can help keep customer rates down.

Some critics of the plan argued that abandonment of the bottle deposit in favor of a recycling fee amounted to a new sales tax on a minority of beverage containers. Delaware's 28-year-old deposit program covered only smaller bottles of carbonated beverages and excluded ubiquitous beverages like tea, sports drinks and water.

Republican lawmakers warned that the fee unfairly singled out some businesses, and predicted a court challenge after Markell's signature. Additional Facts

#### ABOUT THE MEASURE

Recycling remains voluntary for all state residents. The measure requires all private or municipal government waste haulers to begin offering recycling pickups:

- . for all single-family home customers, restaurants and bars by Sept. 15, 2011;
- . for apartment buildings and other multifamily residences by Jan. 1, 2013;
- . for commercial sites by 2014.

#### REPEAL OF MIDDLE-CLASS HOUSING INITIATIVE PROPOSED (WILNJ)

By Chad Livengood, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

New Castle County Councilman Bill Powers has introduced a measure to repeal the county's Workforce Housing Ordinance, even though he voted for the controversial initiative in 2008.

The ordinance was designed to entice developers to build more homes priced under \$270,000, because county officials believed middle-class families were being priced out of the market prior to the housing industry collapse two years ago.

"I think we need to go back to the drawing board," said Powers, a Townsend Democrat.

Powers' repeal effort comes as he faces mounting criticism from southern New Castle County constituents who believe the ordinance will lower their property values, ruin the area's rural charm and strain schools and roads that already are overcrowded.

The Appoquinimink School District has seen a large share of the rampant growth in recent years, and plans to open another elementary school and an early childhood development center in fall 2012 to meet rising demand, said Superintendent Tony Marchio.

The school district is not opposed to work-force housing developments, Marchio said, but "the [school] board is very concerned with the rate of growth and the strain that it has put on the school system."

"The issue with us is just growth in general and will this exacerbate a problem we [already] have here and the strain that it puts on the citizens who live in this area," Marchio said.

Andy Daley, a Republican who is challenging Powers in the November election, said the councilman's repeal effort is "too little, too late" because there are already 18 work-force housing developments in the planning stage.

"He thought it was so wrong that he's willing to flip-flop on the issue," Daley said. "I can't see him shoring up enough votes from his fellow councilmen at this point to reverse what they worked so hard to pass two years ago."

Two of the 18 work-force housing developments were recorded with the county this spring, giving them the green light to break ground, according to the county Land Use Department.



Those developments are Bayberry North on Boyds Corner Road near Middletown and Marra Landing on Newport Gap Pike in Mill Creek. Even if the ordinance is repealed, the existing work-force housing developments would still have the right to go forward, county officials said. Chuck Mulholland, an Odessa resident and vocal critic of the ordinance, said Powers' repeal effort is just going through the motions to file "a lot of fancy paperwork" to placate voters.

"In a campaign season, one would have to question the timeliness of it," said Mulholland, president of the Civic League of New Castle County. "It doesn't accomplish anything." The county Planning Board will likely consider the repeal in late August or early September before it could advance to a council committee for consideration.

Powers admits repealing the ordinance is an uphill battle, requiring a simple majority of seven of the 13 council members to vote for the change.

But Powers contends he's not putting forth a repeal because he's up for re-election this year.

After its passage in 2008, Powers co-sponsored a temporary delay of the ordinance. He said he's been working on making changes to the ordinance behind the scenes for six months, but to no avail.

If the county is going to give developers flexibility to build more densely populated neighborhoods, Powers said, he wants a trade-off to ensure the new density doesn't overcrowd schools and take away from open space.

"If we're going to gain density in an area, let's preserve something somewhere else," Powers said of the ordinance.

Several council members and County Executive Chris Coons said Powers' repeal effort is premature because not a single moderately priced home has been built under the ordinance yet.

"I think we should give it time to work and come back and look at its impact," said Coons, a Democrat who is running for the U.S. Senate this year.

In many ways, the recession stopped the ordinance, as new construction has plummeted in the past two years, said Councilman George Smiley, a New Castle Democrat.

Smiley also wants to give the ordinance time to develop new, moderately priced housing stock in areas where home prices are out of reach for average middle-class families.

"A law is always a work in progress," Smiley said. "You can always make changes on the books. We do it all the time when we amend the code."

Smiley said arguments against the ordinance have been tinged with subtle discrimination based on race and economic class.

"To quote what I heard a lot of them say, they don't want 'those people' in their area," Smiley said.

"I don't see how you look down your nose at someone who works for a living and can afford to pay \$250,000 or \$275,000 for a home."

The ordinance is designed to provide middle-income wage earners with more housing stock, not subsidize their living arrangements like some government programs, Coons said.

"This is not about busloads of Section 8 inhabitants from Chester coming to turn the farm fields of Odessa into slums," Coons said.

## UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE ROBOT SCOURS SEA FOR SIGNS OF OIL (WILNJ)

By Wade Malcolm, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

LEWES -- A few weeks ago, University of Delaware assistant professor Matt Oliver figured his underwater robot would spend a typical summer trolling the mid-Atlantic seas recording water conditions.

Those plans changed quickly after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico started seeping to the east. Mote Marine Laboratories of Sarasota, Fla., needed Oliver's autonomous device to patrol Florida's Gulf Coast.

So glider robot UD134, affectionately known by researchers as the Blue Hen, dove into Gulf waters off the coast of Key West last week and started looking for signs of oil.

Just as it has for so many other scientists and engineers around the country, the spill has seized the focus of UD's School of Marine Science and Policy. Oliver and his colleagues have spent a hectic few weeks setting up computer programs to analyze the data the robot collects and relays via satellite.

The Blue Hen is part of a larger effort mounted by Mote, government agencies and universities as



the oil approaches marine ecosystems surrounding Florida. The mission highlights some particular challenges created by the country's worst oil spill, gushing about a mile underwater: Researchers have developed most tracking, containment and environmental mitigation techniques for surface oil spills.

By measuring currents, temperature and water density, the Blue Hen -- and three similar robots from Rutgers University and the University of South Florida -- could help predict where the slick might head next. But, perhaps more importantly, they scout the depths for pockets of petroleum floating below the surface. The underwater oil is a source of growing concern for government officials and environmentalists. In a news conference Monday, Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said the oil has dispersed into hundreds of patches, meaning cleanup could take years.

The oil pooling on the surface is tracked easily from satellites or planes, scientists said. The dispersants act on the slick the way soap does on greasy hands. The oil washes away into the water, becoming less visible. But it doesn't disappear, Oliver said.

"If you disperse it, you get less gory photos of oil-drenched pelicans," Oliver said. "But it's not a solution to the problem. You're just choosing new victims."

Some of the subsurface petroleum will find its way into ocean sediments. If the concentration becomes high enough, it could destroy marine habitats, breeding grounds and food supplies, said Dominic DiToro, a UD professor of environmental engineering who researches aquatic and sediment toxicity.

"It's like dissolving a poison in cake batter," he said. "Long after that's gone, it's the sediments that will be the problem."

So far, none of the glider robots have detected subsurface oil headed in Florida's direction. But a large plume of oil sits inside a loop current precariously close to the Gulf Stream, which would carry the slick up the Eastern Seaboard. But seeing any oil in Delaware is "highly unlikely," Oliver said, thanks to the protection of the continental shelf.

Scientists at Mote labs are most concerned about Florida's barrier reef near the Keys, where the Blue Hen was launched. The only barrier reef in North America, it supports hundreds of species. The Blue Hen patrols by beaming light down to the Gulf floor. If it reflects back with a certain fluorescence, hydrocarbons could be present, Oliver said. Research ships from Mote or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would then take samples to determine the oil's concentration and potential environmental impact.

The work of the Blue Hen -- and the efforts of other glider robots -- to track the movement of hydrocarbons has never been done before, reflecting the unprecedented nature of the crisis, Oliver said.

"That combination of things is, to my understanding, unique," said Gary Kirkpatrick, a senior scientist at Mote overseeing the operation. "We're discovering how to do these things, this particular task, as we go along."

Although none of them would have chosen this task, Oliver and the other researchers have marveled at the way advanced communications have aided collaboration and real-time monitoring of water conditions.

"It's horrifying what's going on down there, but it's been amazing the way different organizations have come together to do this," he said. "Ten years ago, no way it would have happened."

Oliver can track the Blue Hen's location and the data it collects in real time on nine LCD flat screens in his Lewes lab.

With its onboard satellite phone, the Blue Hen sends a voicemail to a call center in Arizona every three hours, Oliver said. The call center routes the text of the message to an IP address, which triggers an e-mail alert on Oliver's BlackBerry. The dense data set the robot reports feeds into mapping programs Oliver devised, providing a visual sense of conditions in that part of the Gulf. Even if the researchers successfully track the petroleum's path, they will be powerless to stop it. The Blue Hens' mission is more about assessing the spill's impact to aid cleanup in the years to come. The process will be long and difficult, Oliver said.

"People keep asking, 'What can we do?' " Oliver said. "And I have to say, 'I'm not sure.' There are no good ways to clean subsurface oil."

Additional Facts  
ABOUT UD134 'BLUE HEN'

POWER SOURCE: More than 100 C-volt batteries

LENGTH: 5 feet



LOCOMOTION: The glider robot moves by adjusting its retractable nose, which changes its buoyancy to propel it forward.

SPEED: 1.6 miles per hour

WEIGHT: 115 pounds

SOURCE: University of Delaware's Matt Oliver and Teledyne Webb Research

#### FORMER DELAWARE LAWMAKER ADA LEIGH SOLES DIES (WILNJ)

By Robin Brown, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

Education advocate and former state representative Ada Leigh Soles of Newark died Monday night at age 73.

Her husband of more than 50 years, University of Delaware Distinguished Professor Emeritus

James R. Soles, said, "She was outstanding in every way."

"She was a very, very special lady and an unbelievable presence, a tremendous mother and grandmother," said her son-in-law Paul J. Pomeroy, a Newark city councilman. "It's a tough loss, not only for the family, but for the community."

A representative from 1980 through 1992, she had five Joint Finance Committee terms, led grant reform and championed ethics, education and libraries.

U.S. Rep. Mike Castle, offered condolences, calling her "a very bright, kind-hearted, compassionate and genuine woman who always had the best interest of her constituents and district in mind." Recalling times with her when he was governor, Castle said, "I will always remember very fondly her sincerity for helping others."

Soles decided not to run again as Parkinson's disease began to tire her, but she became a senior adviser to then-Gov. Tom Carper.

"We needed somebody who understood the legislature, knew the legislators and was trusted by both Republicans and Democrats," Carper said. "Because of her, they were willing to work with us."

Carper said her death made him sad, but grateful he knew her.

Soles had been in a Newark-area care facility for the past 18 months. "She was in such bad health for so long," James said, "at least she is now at peace."

Ada Leigh and James met in college, working at a summer camp in their home state of Florida.

She was valedictorian at Landon High School, Jacksonville, where her mother had been the first valedictorian, and studied English at Florida State University.

"I knew she was the only person on Earth I would be happy with," he said. "I proposed to her over 300 times, once twice in one day." She finally agreed.

Ada Leigh was first in her class, president of Alpha Chi Omega and the student body.

In 1968, they came to Newark. As their two daughters grew, she worked at UD, led library groups and the League of Women Voters before she was recruited to run for the House. She is in the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame and received honors from the University of Delaware, National Library Association, the Delaware Bar Association and Delaware Humanities Forum.

Last year, a student of 45 years earlier wrote to her that Ada Leigh made a huge difference in her life. James "read that letter to her many, many times."

On Aug. 1, James held her hand and said it was their 50th anniversary. "She said, just as clear as a bell, 'We were married on a Saturday,'" he said. "That was the last moment that I'm certain she knew who I was."

She is survived by Catherine and Paul J. Pomeroy, children Paul IV and Julia; Nancy Beth and Dan Garrett of California and children Elizabeth Leigh, Thomas, Maggie and Jack.

A memorial will be 11 a.m. Monday at St. James Episcopal Church, 2916 St. James Church Road, Stanton. The family suggests gifts to Friends of Newark Free Library, 750 Library Ave., Newark, DE 19711 or Food Bank of Delaware, 14 Garfield Way, Newark, DE 19713.

#### ESPIONAGE CASE SET FOR SENTENCING (WILNJ)

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

A former DuPont Co. research chemist who confessed to industrial espionage is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court on Sept. 14.



Hong Meng, 43, faces a maximum of 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a federal charge of theft of trade secrets. He also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Meng admitted to stealing sensitive research information from the DuPont Co. Meng planned to use the research on organic light-emitting diodes to compete with DuPont after he took a teaching position in China, officials from the United States Attorney's Office of Delaware said Tuesday. In the spring of 2009, Meng accepted a position on the faculty of Peking University College of Engineering in Beijing, while still employed by DuPont and without company permission, prosecutors said. He made a presentation to a regional Chinese government to get financial support for his OLED research, they said.

The investigation also found that, in August of 2009, Meng mailed a package with 109 samples of DuPont chemical compounds to a colleague at Northwestern University, asking that they be forwarded to Meng's office in Beijing.

Meng also admitted lying to the FBI during the course of their investigation, according to a statement from David C. Weiss, the U.S. attorney, and Richard A. McFeely, special agent in charge of the Baltimore FBI field office.

"Ensuring the protection of sensitive technologies created by our trusted partners in the private sector has, and will remain, a critical goal of the FBI's Wilmington office," McFeely said in a statement. "We remain committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who exploit U.S. technologies for their own gain."

"The conviction of Dr. Hong Meng demonstrates our office's commitment to prosecuting offenses involving the unauthorized accessing of trade secret information. We will continue to vigilantly enforce intellectual property offenses, particularly when such offenses involve the possible transmittal of sensitive trade secret information outside the United States," Weiss said in a statement.

#### BILLBOARD MAKES A SPLASH IN DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON (WILNJ)

By Eric Ruth, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

WILMINGTON -- Big names and big aspirations deserve big gestures.

That belief was the impetus behind the supersized billboard now looming over Market Street, believed to be the biggest wrap-around-style installation of its kind in the country.

Part cultural tribute, part city-pride pep talk, the sign was conceived by developer Buccini/Pollin Group more as an artful mural than pure marketing schtick. On the 145-by-25-foot sign, six Delaware artists of international renown are portrayed over a cityscape, topped with the exhortation "Celebrate the music and soul of our city."

There's Clifford Brown, jazz trumpet great and Wilmingtonian. David Bromberg, folk musician and current city resident. Bob Marley, reggae singer extraordinaire who lived in Delaware for a time. Cab Calloway, boogie-woogie bandleader and inspiration for the School of the Arts that bears his name.

Around the corner along Seventh Street, the sign continues: Susan Stroman, Tony Award-winning theater director and choreographer. And finally George Thorogood, "Bad to the Bone" rock musician.

For the local firms involved, the billboard stands as a gracefully executed, tastefully articulated reminder. In a city that can be prone to doubting its ability to boast, it helps to show Wilmingtonians -- and outsiders -- that the city's cultural heritage is bigger than many might think, and that its future holds potential to honor that past.

"For us, it was a perfect fit, because we moved downtown because we believe in the revitalization of downtown," said Matt Urban, president of Mobius New Media, which did design work on the billboard.

Artistically, the billboard sought to evoke a redefined vision of the city through a still-vital past. Structurally, it had to be assembled with painstaking precision to avoid appearing "hung there" like some cheap banner.

"We really wanted to capture the essence of Wilmington and incorporate the musicians and artists" who stand as examples of a legacy to be celebrated, said Marnay Harris, 23, Mobius' lead designer on the project.

Installation took a crew of six about 12 hours -- and more than a few brainstorming sessions to get



the "crease" where it wraps around the building straight and crisp, said Simon Cranny, owner of Precision Color Graphics in Wilmington. More than 1,000 clips were used to mount the mesh sign onto a recycled-aluminum frame.

"Each one of those is what tightens the graphic," Cranny said. "That's what gives it the seamless look. It had to be aesthetically pleasing, but it also had to be architecturally sound."

Cranny suspects the sign is sound enough to hang for the next five years. After all the work that went into it, it had better.

"It was one of those things where you were happy to do it and happy to be done with it," he joked.

#### DUPONT GETS REGULATORY OK FOR GENETICALLY ALTERED SOYBEAN (WILNJ)

By Jonathan Starkey, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved soybean seeds that DuPont genetically modified to produce more healthful cooking oil, DuPont's biotech seed business said Tuesday.

Pioneer Hi-Bred's "Plenish" branded soybean produces oil with 20 percent less saturated fat than traditional soybean oil and no trans fats.

Naturally, soybean oil contains no trans fats, a Pioneer spokesman said. That fat is added during the process of hydrogenation -- adding hydrogen to the oil -- which stabilizes it and allows food companies to fry with it at high temperatures.

Fatty soybean oil has lost market share in the cooking oil market in recent years, as food companies have taken steps to reduce trans fats in their foods.

"Obtaining USDA deregulation for Plenish high-oleic soybeans is an example of Pioneer's increased focus and capability in moving biotech traits through global regulatory systems and into farmers' fields," Paul Schickler, Pioneer's president, said in a statement.

Pioneer will introduce the Plenish soybeans in its Pioneer brand Y varieties.

DuPont said Monday that the soybean has been shown to offer similar yields as products already on the market.

The Plenish product will be field-tested this year and next, and DuPont expects a full commercial rollout in 2012.

The company expects to receive regulatory approval from the European Union and other important soybean importers worldwide, such as China, Japan and Taiwan, by 2012.

The product has already received regulatory approval in Canada and Mexico. The go-ahead from the USDA was the final U.S. regulatory hurdle.

#### DELAWARE BUSINESS: TIGANI BANKRUPTCY HALTS SHERIFF'S SALE (WILNJ)

By Esteban Parra And Maureen Milford, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

Liquor distributor Christopher Tigani filed bankruptcy documents Tuesday, stopping a sheriff's sale of his Westover Hills mansion that formerly belonged to Charles Cawley, founder of MBNA credit card bank.

The filing creates an automatic stay that prevents Tigani's creditors from taking any action to collect a debt. The stay could hold them at bay for up to four months as Tigani comes up with a plan to repay his debts, said Juliet M. Moringiello, a bankruptcy professor at Widener University School of Law's Harrisburg campus.

"Really, the punch line is a bankruptcy filing does hold off a foreclosure, but it doesn't hold it off forever," Moringiello said.

Tigani, who filed the seven-page document in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

In his plan, Tigani will have to agree to pay for his home in full or lose it, Moringiello said. That's because people cannot modify their home mortgages during bankruptcy. Moringiello said the mortgage company could file a petition claiming its interests are not being protected.

Tigani filed Chapter 11, which allows him to reorganize under the bankruptcy code, about an hour before the sheriff's sale was to start.

He estimated he owes between \$10,000,001 and \$50 million. He stated the same amount for his assets. The debts are primarily consumer debts that were incurred for "personal, family or household purpose," according to the filing.



Among the 28 creditors Tigani listed were five law firms, Flowers by Yukie, BMW Financial Services, North Hills Cleaners and Strictly Gutter Cleaning. The filing did not say how much he owed each business.

Had the sale gone through, it would have been one of the highest-profile mortgage meltdowns in Wilmington's recent history. The 23,937-square-foot home just off Del. 52 was bought by Tigani in 2008.

Tigani, who has been embroiled in a bitter legal battle with his father, Robert Tigani, over control of the family's lucrative liquor business, N.K.S. Distributors Inc. in New Castle, declined to comment Monday after losing a bid in Delaware Chancery Court to keep the house off the auction block until the judge ruled on a claim against Wilmington Trust Co. that related to the overall N.K.S. battle. Christopher Tigani had alleged that Wilmington Trust, which gave him a \$4.1 million adjustable-rate mortgage in 2008, conspired with his father and N.K.S. to force him out of the liquor business. But Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons Jr., who has presided over the father-son dispute, wrote Monday that Tigani has not shown a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits of the case. "... Because, even if Bob and N.K.S. acted wrongfully, it seems unlikely that Chris' evidence will be sufficient to show that WTC knowingly entered into a confederation with Bob and N.K.S. to oust Chris from his position at N.K.S.," Parsons wrote.

The evidence shows that the actions Wilmington Trust took were simply to safeguard the bank's interest, Parsons wrote.

The mortgage called for Tigani to pay installments of interest monthly until June 2009, when the mortgage matured and the entire sum secured by the mortgage was due and payable in full.

Tigani also took out a \$1 million loan from Wilmington Trust to purchase furniture for the residence.

When Tigani failed to pay the entire sum, Wilmington Trust filed a foreclosure action against him in July in Superior Court. The bank got a judgment in Superior Court earlier this year. Tigani chose not to appeal.

Instead he went to Chancery Court in March and got a reprieve on the sheriff's sale from Parsons. Parsons extinguished the temporary restraining order Monday and denied Tigani's motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the bank from completing the sheriff's sale.

In testimony before Parsons on Friday, Timothy Jay Houseal, the attorney for Wilmington Trust, said Tigani had lived in the house rent-free for a year and it was harmful to the bank to have a \$5 million property "sitting there."

An inspection of the house showed significant problems, including a flat roof that was leaking and needed an estimated \$200,000 in repairs.

"The property is not maintained in the pristine condition that Mr. Cawley had it," said Houseal, who would not comment Tuesday on Tigani's filing. "The value of the property is decreasing in the market as long as Mr. Tigani owns it."

Tigani countered that there were "big shoes to fill" to maintain the house the way Cawley did.

"I'm doing the very best I can, but I don't have a staff," he said.

Still, Tigani admitted he made a mistake when he bought the house.

"If I had to take it back, I would not have bought it," Tigani said. "But the fact is I did buy it."

#### DELAWARE ENVIRONMENT: VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR SIXTH ANNUAL CLEANUP OF THE INLAND BAYS (WILNJ)

By The (salisbury, Md.) Daily Times

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

DEWEY BEACH -- The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Center for the Inland Bays are looking for volunteers for the sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays on June 19.

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Volunteers should dress to get dirty and be prepared for cooler conditions on the water, as well as wet walking conditions on land. Boots are also suggested. Those who have access to life jackets should bring one, as they are required on boats. Otherwise, life jackets will be provided. Young children should not attend.

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Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, as lunch and T-shirts will be provided.

Additional Facts

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WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., June 19

CONTACT: 270-8496 or [aaron.hurd@state.de.us](mailto:aaron.hurd@state.de.us)

## DELAWARE SKATEBOARDERS' PARK FALLS VICTIM TO BULLDOZER (WILNJ)

By Dara McBride, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

Worried about liability issues, state workers bulldozed an unauthorized skateboard park at an abandoned supermarket site in Stanton on Tuesday.

Sean Suvie, 22, and Shawn Skibicki, 26, who were among the area skateboarders who built the "Pink Spot" over the past four months, said they spent about \$3,000 to pour concrete, clean up graffiti and paint. The problem: The site was built without permission on state property.

"Up until this point, no one said 'no,'" Suvie said.

The Pink Spot, on West Newport Pike, was built on a former Acme supermarket lot that was painted pink. Skibicki said the park was 12 years in the making -- he and friends would skateboard in the parking lot, and after the building was demolished two years ago, it became an ideal site. The skaters thought the flat, abandoned lot would never be developed, Skibicki said, because it is located on a flood plain.

The park was a liability to the state, Delaware Department of Transportation Manager of North District Operations Bill Thatcher said, noting officials were alerted to the problem about two weeks ago after a teenage skateboarder injured his leg at the site.

"It's state property. The accident happened, the child was hurt, police were called and something had to be done," Thatcher said.

DelDOT has owned the property since 2004.

DelDOT spokesman Mike Williams said a department team of three or four men cleaned park benches and pizza boxes from the site. DelDOT plans to reinstate the "No Trespassing" signs that had been removed by users and keep the site empty.

The state's decision to clean up the site, which hadn't been announced, angered some skateboarders, who assembled at the site Tuesday and shouted curses at the DelDOT crew, Thatcher said.

After one skateboarder urinated on a DelDOT truck, workers called police, and a New Castle County officer and a state trooper responded. No arrests were made.

Ben Jones, co-owner of Kinetic Skateboarding in Brandywine Hundred, said he wishes state officials would change their minds because the state doesn't have a free skate park.

"I think it should be a no-brainer, given that none of the government here has been able to create a safe, free place to skate," he said.

Mark Calder, co-founder of the Wilmington Skate Project, said, "I don't blame anybody for doing something that needs to be done."

Calder said it is time for the state to respond to the need for a skate park because the sport is one of the most popular.

"There are baseball fields and tennis courts all around," he said.

The project began working on a temporary location at East Seventh Street Park in Wilmington last



month.

Wilmington City Council planned a \$250,000 public skateboard park in 2007 but has been unable to secure funding, said City Councilman Kevin Kelley, who hopes the park can be built once economic conditions improve.

Suvie said skaters realize now that how they built the Stanton park was a problem.

"If we could have this back and do it legally, we would. And we would make it bigger and safer," Suvie said.

But he believes in what the skaters were doing.

He said the site taught skateboarders as young as 8 skating etiquette. He bought trash cans and bags for the site, and neighbors thanked the skaters for keeping the area free of litter and graffiti, he said.

After the demolition was completed, Suvie went back to the spot to gather up pieces of the pink rubble for himself and his friends.

"It's just something to remember it by, because we're never going to have a spot like this again," he said.

#### DELAWARE GOVERNMENT: NEW ANIMAL SHELTER STANDARDS PUSHED (WILNJ)

By Ginger Gibson, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

DOVER -- Animal shelters would be subject to new regulations that would reduce the number of animals euthanized under legislation announced Tuesday by legislators and Gov. Jack Markell. Senate Bill 280 would create the first statewide standards for the five animal shelters currently operating in the state and any new shelters that might open, Senate Majority Leader Patricia Blevins, D-Elsmere, said.

"It will create uniformity on the way they treat animals in their facilities," Blevins said.

The bill is the most recent in a series meant to improve animal protection. Legislation to allow dogs that attack cats to be deemed dangerous was passed by the Senate is awaiting action in the House. A bill increasing penalties for attending animal fights was signed by Markell last month. The newest bill requires that animals receive inoculations within nine hours of entering a shelter and see a veterinarian within three days, said Blevins, the bill's sponsor.

It also would require that shelters post online photos of all lost and stray dogs they receive, Blevins said, to make it easier for people to locate their pets.

"This effort makes it easier for families to adopt pets, makes it safer for pets as they await adoption and makes it very clear that our existing state shelters are committed to quality standards," Markell said in a news release.

Shelters such as the Kent County SPCA that euthanize animals would have to contact the other shelters before killing an animal to see if there is room for it somewhere else, Blevins said. This requirement should reduce the number of animals euthanized, she said.

Blevins isn't concerned that stray animals will be turned away from shelters if more pets are kept alive, because the Kent County SPCA is required to accept all animals from Kent and New Castle counties.

The legislation establishes standards and procedures for euthanizing animals. The use of decompression chambers would be prohibited and animals must be supervised from the time of lethal injections until death.

The legislation is co-sponsored by Rep. Melanie George, D-Bear, in the House.

"They say that you can judge society by how well it treats the least well-off members," George said in a news release. "Animals who are housed in shelters are among the least well-off living creatures. They deserve to be treated how we would want any of our pets to be treated."

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#### PUTTING THEIR LIVES BACK TOGETHER (WILNJ)

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

Residents displaced from their homes by a deadly fire in Dover on Sunday were allowed to return to the building to recover some belongings Tuesday.

Management teams and local authorities escorted residents of the Woodcrest Arms apartments to find what they could salvage. The early morning fire heavily damaged the 28-unit building, caused two deaths and injured nine people, including firefighters. A total of 150 people were left homeless. Carmesha Truitt, 21, and her boyfriend, Jordan Speight, were among those allowed inside to gather what they could. They went with hopes of getting much more than they left with.

She got her 17-month-old son's diapers, her collection of 200 DVDs, a TV her mother had given her for Christmas and a diamond-studded necklace that Speight bought her for Christmas.

"Besides that, there was nothing else we could really take," Truitt said. "It looked like water damage took over our apartment. Our bathroom was destroyed. I think we were upset because hardly any of us had insurance and that's all of our stuff that we have to purchase again," Truitt said.

Truitt and Speights found a new apartment in Dover, but the rent is \$100 a month more than the \$650 they had been paying.

"I have faith that everything is going to be okay," she said. "I believe that God will fix everything for everybody."

Karen McAlonen, vice president of property operations, said the experience of visiting the damaged apartments has been stressful for everyone.

"We are working hand in hand with our residents to help them in every way we can," she said.

"This was an emotional day for our residents and for our team."

Officials believe the fire started on the ground floor, raced up a stairwell and across the building's roof. Some residents leapt from windows because the fire moved so quickly.

The body of Jacqueline Wuest, 61, was found inside the building Sunday. Christina Lynn Taylor, 33, of Felton, died Monday as a result of her injuries.

Dover police would not say whether Taylor was one of two occupants of the building taken to Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa., in critical condition Sunday. An update on the condition of those victims has not been released.



Agencies including the American Red Cross are finding accommodations for those displaced by the fire. Dover's Central Delaware YMCA has been taking donations. Area restaurants, including Outback and Olive Garden have been feeding displaced residents.

Rep. Darryl Scott, D-Dover, sent an e-mail to lawmakers and supporters asking for donations for the victims of the fire. He placed boxes around Legislative Hall to collect items.

"Anything you think a family that lost everything needs, we could use," he said.

The Dover Fire Marshal's Office is still trying to determine the cause of the fire. Crews will be at the scene again today. The Fire Marshal's Office has also turned queries about the investigation over to the police department because there were fatalities.

#### DELAWARE POLICE DEFEND DELAY IN RAPE ALERT (WILNJ)

By Terry Sanginiti And Sarah Larson, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

While the head of the state police Tuesday defended his detectives' decision to not initially release information on a rape investigation, some area women who work near where the abduction happened expressed anger at the delayed notification.

State Police Superintendent Col. Robert M. Coupe also said internal affairs is investigating how a sensitive Delaware Information & Analysis Center (DIAC) bulletin was released to the public.

And security was stepped up Tuesday at the two locations where the abductions occurred.

"It never really dawned on me that it could happen," said Sallie Mae employee Jennifer Dudkewitz as she walked into an office building at 300 Continental Drive in Stanton. "With police around, it feels safer."

Sallie Mae corporate officials declined to discuss the increased measures they are taking, saying it would be a "breach of security."

But a state trooper was stationed in the parking lot.

"We work hard to provide a safe environment for our employees and visitors," said Martha Holler of Sallie Mae. "The entire community is outraged by the recent incidents. Given where we live and work in the area, we are engaged with police and helping them to bring this criminal to justice."

A 27-year-old woman was abducted at gunpoint there last Wednesday from the First State Surgery parking lot, driven around for five hours, raped three times and forced to withdraw money at an ATM. A 22-year-old woman also was abducted at gunpoint Saturday morning in the parking lot at Sallie Mae and driven around by the gunman, who raped her and returned her to the parking lot 45 minutes later.

Patricia Telford, executive director of ContactLifeline, which provides crisis counseling for rape victims, said the public needs to be notified if a forcible rape and abduction occurs.

"We need to take the victims seriously," Telford said. "All rapists are serial rapists. No rapist rapes once."

The police's job is to investigate and gather data, and that's the route they follow, Telford said.

"When something of this nature happens, abducted by gunpoint in the parking lot of where she works, it should have raised the level of security awareness to women," she said.

Ellen Nelson, of Newark, a recipient of the DIAC bulletin, said she was upset that the information was not released sooner.

"As a mother and a woman, I am outraged that the police did not notify the public in a prompt and timely manner," she said. "Is that not their job? Who knows if the second attack would have been prevented if public notification had taken place."

Coupe said detectives were focused on the investigation, visiting the locations that the first victim pointed out and hoped to recover evidence "that would have led to a quick resolution."

"Unfortunately, there was another incident," he said. "They were balancing the responsibility to the public with justice for the victim while maintaining the integrity of the investigation."

He said it was an "investigative decision" not to release too much information.

"If too much information is put out, it can hamper the investigation," Coupe said. Details are not disclosed immediately to protect the victim and others are not disclosed to protect the investigation."

When a bank is robbed, the surveillance photo and information are published soon after, Nelson said.

"Are the women who live and work in this area not more valuable than that?" she asked.



State police conducted a reverse 911 Monday night alerting the public in the areas of the abductions.

They are displaying the composites of the suspect on Clear Channel's digital billboard, on northbound I-95 near Newark and south of the rest area.

"We have received a lot of tips and are trying to keep up with it," said state police Sgt. Walter Newton. "We're hoping that we receive information that will lead to an identification."

Other patients and staff members going in and out of the building also thought police should have informed the public sooner.

"It's a shame that there are any crimes like that and that they are coming more and more to the suburbs and nicer areas," said Linda Evans, of Newark. "On the other hand, you just need to be wise and you can't live in fear."

Sharon Williams, of Stanton, said her niece alerted her about the incident because she was going to the medical practice for the first time Tuesday.

"I heard about it and that's really terrible," Williams said of the rape. "It's not really safe anymore anywhere."

Addressing the release of the DIAC bulletin -- that was widely circulated by e-mail -- Coupe said it was never meant for the public.

The bulletin, also received by The News Journal, contained details about the two incidents police did not release.

"It's unfortunate that it fell into the public domain," Coupe said. "It is circulated to law enforcement and that's its intended use, for law enforcement."

He said there are concerns that it was made public and it's now under investigation as to who exactly released it.

"We are addressing that internally," Coupe said.

#### DELAWARE ROADS: BEAR CRASH KILLS ONE, INJURES TWO (WILNJ)

By The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

New Castle County police say at least one person died after being ejected in a head-on crash in Bear on Tuesday afternoon.

The accident happened about 2:45 p.m. on Reybold Road, near the Gray Acres development.

Two other occupants of the vehicles were taken to Christiana Hospital for evaluation.

The seriousness of their injuries was not known Tuesday, said police Senior Cpl. Trinidad Navarro.

The investigation is continuing. The road was closed until about 6 p.m.

#### ESPIONAGE CASE SET FOR SENTENCING (WILNJ)

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

A former DuPont Co. research chemist who confessed to industrial espionage is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court on Sept. 14.

Hong Meng, 43, faces a maximum of 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a federal charge of theft of trade secrets. He also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Meng admitted to stealing sensitive research information from the DuPont Co. Meng planned to use the research on organic light-emitting diodes to compete with DuPont after he took a teaching position in China, officials from the United States Attorney's Office of Delaware said Tuesday.

In the spring of 2009, Meng accepted a position on the faculty of Peking University College of Engineering in Beijing, while still employed by DuPont and without company permission, prosecutors said. He made a presentation to a regional Chinese government to get financial support for his OLED research, they said.

The investigation also found that, in August of 2009, Meng mailed a package with 109 samples of DuPont chemical compounds to a colleague at Northwestern University, asking that they be forwarded to Meng's office in Beijing.

Meng also admitted lying to the FBI during the course of their investigation, according to a statement from David C. Weiss, the U.S. attorney, and Richard A. McFeely, special agent in charge of the Baltimore FBI field office.

"Ensuring the protection of sensitive technologies created by our trusted partners in the private



sector has, and will remain, a critical goal of the FBI's Wilmington office," McFeely said in a statement. "We remain committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who exploit U.S. technologies for their own gain."

"The conviction of Dr. Hong Meng demonstrates our office's commitment to prosecuting offenses involving the unauthorized accessing of trade secret information. We will continue to vigilantly enforce intellectual property offenses, particularly when such offenses involve the possible transmittal of sensitive trade secret information outside the United States," Weiss said in a statement.

#### WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL EDITORIALS:

##### PRIMARIES MAY BE OVER, BUT THE SAME PROBLEMS REMAIN (WILNJ)

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

The political world is awash in explanations today. The winners of yesterday's primary elections are busy proclaiming their march to victory, while the losers spin away the results. Pundits, likewise, are tied up offering views on what it all "means."

Whatever the results, the problems that faced each of the states with a June 8 primary and the problems that face the country as a whole are still there, the day after the vote.

The incumbents who survived challenges still don't have a clue about how to solve the financial crisis or create jobs. And the self-proclaimed upstarts, such as the tea party-backed candidates, are still giving us the same slogans: smaller government and lower taxes. But slogans aren't solutions.

For example, incumbents and challengers alike called for cutting waste and reducing spending. But whose waste and what spending?

Voters in California told pollsters they are more worried about their state's financial problems than any of the national issues. They want the budget brought into line. But how? Some candidates called for abolishing the Internal Revenue Code. Fair enough, but what would it be replaced with? Ronald Reagan, when he was campaigning, used to joke that people scoffed at him for saying the answers were simple. He replied that they are simple; they just aren't easy.

As yesterday's winners move to the November elections, they should keep that in mind.

##### POLICE SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT RAPE INCIDENT FROM PUBLIC (WILNJ)

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

Why did the New Castle County police fail to notify the public about a rapist on the loose?

According to police reports, two women were raped after they were abducted while sitting in their cars in public places during daylight. There was no reason for the women to be especially wary as they went about their business. Both crimes occurred near Stanton and police are going on the theory the rapist in both incidents is the same man.

Certainly, police cannot prevent every crime, but the police failed to alert the public after the first incident occurred last Wednesday morning.

If an alarm had been sounded by the police, perhaps the second victim, who was kidnapped and raped Saturday morning, may have had the opportunity to take extra precautions.

There are times when it is logical, prudent and strategic for police to delay releasing information about a crime. Sometimes police officials do not want to panic the public with incomplete information or vague reports of an unconfirmed crime. At other times, temporarily delaying information to protect someone who is actually in harm's way makes sense. But news about the kidnap and rape of a woman in the parking lot of a medical facility around noon on a Wednesday is not something that should be hidden.

The police did not have to release all of the details. They did not have to tip their investigation or make public any leads. However, they should have alerted the public so it could take action.

##### DETERIORATING HOUSES IN PARKS GIVE NEW CASTLE COUNTY A BLACK EYE (WILNJ)

By Ron Williams, The News Journal

Wilmington News Journal, June 9, 2010

One of the prettier New Castle County parks is just outside Newport off Maryland Avenue. Banning Park is an expansive, wide-open space with all the needed amenities of a good park, from tennis



courts to barbecue grills.

The trees are fully mature and thick with foliage this time of year.

But just to the left of the entrance, next to the Daniel Frawley Soccer Field, is a striking eyesore that would make the uninformed think New Castle County's parks department is made up of a gang of apathetic lazybones.

A once-beautiful, two-story Georgian-style brick home -- whose most noticeable attributes today are the huge plywood rectangles covering the busted-out windows -- is rotting away at its core. The backyard, which sits next to the park's maintenance yard, is full of brush and littered with junk. Not the kind of thing county residents are likely to put on a county park tour with their out-of-state friends.

The house was once home to the Special Services Division, which runs the parks, and then various charitable organizations until maintenance began to fall off. And this is not the only county-owned house on park property that's falling apart. County Council President Paul Clark estimates there are about 12 of them in various stages of disrepair.

Until County Executive Chris Coons took office some six years ago, the county was renting out the homes at reasonable rates to county employees and cops. But Coons decided it was not financially prudent for the county to be in the house rental business and pulled the plug on renewing the leases.

That led to the falloff in maintenance and upkeep of the county's housing.

Now the county finds itself in a Catch-22 situation, in that renovating the homes and keeping them maintained -- including the farmhouse at Glasgow Park -- is cost-prohibitive. And renting them out to private individuals to do the repairs doesn't work because banks don't want to lend home repair money to people who don't own the property.

Before some of New Castle County's low-lives start deciding these buildings make good arson material, Clark would like to see the county tap some cheap bond money to make the needed repairs around the county.

Renting them out to say, rookie police officers who are just starting a family, would be a good way to provide some on-site security and keep the stately old homes from deteriorating further. A parked patrol car in the driveway would at least play some role in keeping vagrants and troublemakers out of the parks.

As Clark, a former member of the Board of Adjustment, points out, most private citizens couldn't get away with throwing some plywood up on the windows of a vacant house without facing a zoning violation.

Fixing these places up and bringing in some revenue is at least worthy of review and a financial assessment of how much bond money and expense would be required.

Another possible solution might be a resident curatorship program for the homes. That approach is already under way.

Republicans are filling it up

It's still a work in progress, but Republican state party Chairman Tom Ross is moving along smartly toward his goal of putting a candidate in every open slot for the state legislature and county councils, even New Castle County Council, which in recent years have been ignored by the Republicans. And with the nearly 2-1 D's registration figures in the county, who can blame them? But this is a different kind of political year, with Republicans smelling discontent with the incumbent Democrats.

The Republicans have even filled candidacies in southern New Castle County, a bastion of Democrats, and in highly Democratic legislative districts like Sen. Nancy Cook's in Kent County. It's refreshing to see the Rs at least trying to make these races competitive. And who knows?

Maybe they'll even win some.

Now, about that attorney general's opening.

Looking from the inside out

A realistic and forward-looking group of firefighters known as the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association has a new website to promote favorable news items about the fire service, and also the unfavorable side.

The latest edition of the Delaware Fire Service News has an item about the new program, which can be found at [www.cvvfa.org](http://www.cvvfa.org).

The CVVFA said "reckless and inappropriate conduct by a small minority of the nation's fire



service is eroding the high moral ground occupied by firefighters," its white paper said. Increased vigilance and personal responsibility are the goals of the CVVFA, a century-old group dedicated to enhancing communication and continuing education among the fire service.

## BIDEN IN THE NEWS:

### BIDEN PRAISES KENYA LEADERS FOR POLITICAL COOPERATION (NYT)

By Jeffrey Gettleman

New York Times, June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya - Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. stood at a lectern in Kenya's capital on Tuesday afternoon with the sun peeking out behind the clouds and a huge grin spreading across his face.

It was not Nairobi's perfect climate nor the new road construction nor this city's verdant parks that impressed him. It was that Kenya's president, Mwai Kibaki, and the prime minister, Raila Odinga, actually seemed to be on the same page.

"Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister, I think we've had some very productive discussions today, covering many interests," Mr. Biden said after meeting top Kenyan officials. "But I must tell you, I was truly impressed by the mutual cooperation between you and the prime minister and your commitment - your mutual commitment - to reform."

Kenya is still stumbling out of the disaster of late 2007 and early 2008, when a disputed election split the country along ethnic lines and set off widespread bloodshed. The feuding leaders were Mr. Kibaki and Mr. Odinga.

Mr. Biden looked quite at ease standing between them on Tuesday. He is the highest-ranking American official to visit Kenya in years. Though Kenyans feel a special bond to President Obama, whose father was Kenyan, the pundits and public here have been speculating for weeks about what message Mr. Biden might bring.

So far, his message seems positive.

Mr. Biden talked briefly about the constitutional and judicial reforms that Kenya is trying to enact and said meeting Kenya's leaders made him "more optimistic than I have been about the prospects of this reform occurring."

"I can tell you, when these reforms take place, you will find a completely different atmosphere about investment in this country," he said. "Americans want to do business here, they want to travel here, and with the right climate, they will come."

Mr. Biden made a stop in Kenya on his way to South Africa, where he will attend the opening of the World Cup at the end of the week.

### BIDEN VISIT SEEKS BETTER KENYA TIES (WSJ)

By Sarah Childress

Wall Street Journal, June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya-U.S. Vice President Joe Biden held out the potential for more investment in Kenya, a critical ally whose help has been sought stabilizing a troubled East African region that includes neighboring Somalia.

The vice president's remarks Tuesday during a brief trip to the region represent a softening of U.S. criticism. American officials have chided Kenya in the past for what has been perceived as a halting anticorruption drive and the slow pace of promised constitutional change. Washington has imposed a travel ban on Kenya's attorney general, who is seen as blocking changes.

During his visit, Mr. Biden offered more carrot than stick, vowing more business and a robust partnership between the two countries. "As Kenya moves forward so too will the United States in strengthening our relationships with you, both economically and politically," he said, adding that he was "more optimistic than I have been" that political changes would take place.

Washington is relying on help from East African allies in dealing with nearby Somalia, which has become a magnet for al Qaeda-backed militants. U.S. officials say al Shabaab, a militant group allied with al Qaeda, is attempting to establish a base for a broader terror network. On Saturday, two U.S. citizens were arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and charged with planning to fly to Somalia to fight with al Shabaab in the hopes of killing Americans.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said he had asked the U.S. to take more of a lead in helping



stabilize the region. "We have asked the U.S. government to provide leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilize Somalia," the president said, though he didn't provide details. The international community, including the U.S., has invested heavily in the current Somali government, believed to be the best hope for stability there.

Kenya has helped train some Somali troops and has tried several Somali pirates arrested in international waters. Mr. Biden said the U.S. would continue to support Kenya's efforts in their "shared challenges" in the region. He plans to deliver a speech Wednesday elaborating on the countries' ties before traveling to South Africa to attend the opening of the World Cup.

The U.S. relationship with Kenya has been contentious at times. Since ethnic violence erupted after the 2007 elections, Kenya has come under pressure to make changes that would defuse tensions. Among the changes the U.S. says are needed: eliminating corruption in the police force, improving accountability in the justice system and creating a new constitution that offers more checks on executive power.

Kenya's president has replaced the police commissioner, and a new draft constitution will be ready for a national referendum in August.

Still, deep fissures remain within the Kenyan government following the violence-marred elections in 2007. More than 1,300 people were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in the clashes, which sprang up along tribal lines. A power-sharing deal was cobbled together to end the violence, but the union is awkward at best and at times acrimonious.

On Tuesday, Mr. Biden met with both President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga. They gathered with other top U.S. and Kenyan officials around a large wooden table at Kenya's white-pillared presidential palace. Before the discussion began, Mr. Biden quipped: "As I told my staff, everything is settled." The joke drew laughs from around the table.

Write to Sarah Childress at [sarah.childress@wsj.com](mailto:sarah.childress@wsj.com)

#### KENYA ASKS US TO LEAD INT'L EFFORT IN SOMALIA (WP/AP)

By Jason Straziuso, The Associated Press

Washington Post, June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya -- Kenya's president asked the United States on Tuesday to lead a greater international effort to stabilize neighboring Somalia, while visiting U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said the U.S. is committed to helping Kenya see regional stability.

The request that the U.S. do more to combat rising militancy in Somalia comes three days after the arrests of two New Jersey men attempting to fly there. The two are charged with conspiring to kill, maim and kidnap persons outside the U.S. by joining al-Shabab, a Somali militant group designated by the U.S. in 2008 as a terrorist organization.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said Somalia is a high priority for both the U.S. and Kenya. The country hasn't had an effective central government in 19 years, a situation that has allowed militancy and piracy to flourish.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the U.S. government to provide leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilize Somalia," Kibaki said. Biden said the U.S. recognizes that Kenya's long-term stability and development is tied to regional stability.

"I assured the president and the prime minister the United States supports Kenya's efforts to secure the border in the face of very real threats from those who wish to spread chaos through despair and violence," Biden said during a joint news conference at Kibaki's Nairobi residence. Biden is in the East African nation, the birthplace of President Barack Obama's father, to press for political reforms in the country and discuss the situation in Somalia and Sudan.

If Kenya strengthens its rule of law, the country will open the door to greater U.S. aid and investment, Biden said, encouraging Kenya to continue with reforms initiated after the country's postelection violence. More than 1,000 people were killed after the December 2007 poll.

"Americans want to do business here, they want to travel here, and with the right climate, they will come," Biden said.

While her husband was at Nairobi's State House, Jill Biden, their daughter Ashley, 29, and granddaughter Maisy, 9, visited Kibera, the largest slum in the country.

There they heard testimonials from two women living with HIV and visited a girl who is part of a group of adolescents who have been trained with skills to enable them earn an income and cope



with life in the rough slum.

The HIV-positive women and girls are beneficiaries of U.S.-funded organizations. Moving from one venue to another, Jill Biden trudged in ankle-high mud through a maze of alleyways. Her 20-minute walk brought business to a standstill.

The vice president and his wife later laid a wreath at a memorial for the 1998 bombing against the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. That bombing and a simultaneous one against the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Tanzania killed 224 people.

On Wednesday, the vice president is scheduled to give what he said would be a major speech on Kenya. The Bidens are also scheduled to visit Nairobi National Park to view wildlife before traveling to South Africa for the opening of football's World Cup later in the week.

Biden began his three-African nation tour on Monday in Egypt where he met with that country's leader, Hosni Mubarak, and discussed how their two countries and other allies can find ways to address the humanitarian, economic, security and political situation in Gaza.

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Associated Press writer Tom Odula in Nairobi, Kenya contributed to this report.

#### BIDEN IN PUSH TO STABILISE VOLATILE E. AFRICA (AFP)

By Jean-Marc Mojon

AFP, June 9, 2010

NAIROBI - US Vice President Joe Biden was to meet southern Sudan's leader in Nairobi Wednesday and also focus on troubled Somalia after discussing the fate of the volatile region with Kenyan leaders.

On the second leg of his trip to Africa, Biden highlighted Kenya's key role in stabilising a region that is threatened by chaos in Somalia and could see further upheaval if southern Sudan chooses independence in January.

"We recognise that Kenya's long term stability and development are tied to regional security and development, and the United States is committed to work with Kenya to achieve both those objectives," he said Tuesday, when he met Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

A dispute between the two Kenyan leaders following the 2007 presidential election triggered a wave of violence that left some 1,500 people dead and rattled a nation long seen as a beacon of stability in the region.

In recent months, US officials had been openly critical of Kenya's attempts to implement the political reforms demanded by the international community but Biden on Tuesday took heart in recent developments.

The coalition formed in 2008 by the formerly feuding Kenyan leaders had looked on the brink of collapse earlier this year but the uneasy partners eventually agreed on a draft constitution.

The document, a key demand of the United States and other international players who sponsored Kenya's power-sharing deal, is to be submitted to a referendum in early August.

Biden said he was "truly impressed by the mutual cooperation" between Odinga and Kibaki and added that a new constitution would appease foreign concerns over Kenya's political climate and stimulate a fresh wave of investments.

The vice president was expected to expand further on his country's reinvigorated partnership with Kenya during a keynote speech on Wednesday.

He was also scheduled to hold talks with southern Sudan's leader, Salva Kiir, who is expected to steer his semi-autonomous region towards a referendum on self-determination in January 2011.

The referendum is part of the 2005 peace deal that ended a two-decade civil war between the north and south of Africa's largest country.

A widely-predicted "yes" vote by the oil-rich south -- which has borders with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia -- would have wide-ranging effects on the region.

Biden was also scheduled to hold a special meeting Wednesday on Somalia, where moderate Islamist President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has been mustering support for an offensive against an Islamist insurgency.

Washington has repeatedly voiced concerns that Somalia, two thirds of which is controlled by the insurgents, was becoming a new haven for Al Qaeda operatives.



Kibaki for his part reiterated his concerns over the threat posed to Kenya's border by Somalia's Islamist rebels and to the impact of growing Somali piracy.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the US government to provide the leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilise Somalia," he said.

#### BIDEN PRAISES KENYA, DISCUSSES E.AFRICA STABILITY (AFP)

By Jean-marc Mojon

AFP, June 9, 2010

NAIROBI (AFP) - US Vice President Joe Biden praised Kenya's progress on internal reforms Tuesday and discussed means of stabilising the region, amid concerns over the situation in neighbouring Sudan and Somalia.

Washington has applied unprecedented pressure on its top regional ally Kenya to overcome its political disputes and implement a reform agenda decided in the aftermath of post-election chaos more than two years ago.

Most recent public comments by US officials had been openly critical of the Kenyan government's performance in tackling the long list of reforms it agreed to but Biden's assessment was more positive.

"Thank you ... for making me more optimistic than I had been about the prospect of this reform occurring," Biden said after meeting Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and other cabinet members.

The coalition formed in 2008 by the formerly feuding Kenyan leaders had looked on the brink of collapse earlier this year but the uneasy partners eventually agreed on a draft constitution.

The document, a key demand of the United States and other international players who sponsored Kenya's power-sharing deal, is to be submitted to a referendum in early August.

Biden said he was "truly impressed by the mutual cooperation" between Odinga and Kibaki and added that a new constitution would appease foreign concerns over Kenya's political climate and stimulate a fresh wave of investments.

"Putting in place a new constitution and strengthening your democratic institutions and rule of law will further open the door to major US development programmes" and investment from US corporations, he said.

Biden, who said that "Kenya's best days are yet to come", predicted that fresh US investment in Kenya would also boost confidence from other parts of the world.

The vice president, whose tour of Africa started in Egypt and will also take him to South Africa, also said he was in Nairobi to discuss the eastern African region's stability.

"We recognise that Kenya's long term stability and development are tied to regional security and development, and the United States is committed to work with Kenya to achieve both those objectives," he said.

Biden was expected to expand on his government's strategic partnership with Kenya during a keynote speech on Wednesday.

He was also scheduled to meet Salva Kiir, the president of Sudan's semi-autonomous south, which is due to hold a referendum on self-determination in January 2011.

A widely-predicted decision by the southern oil-rich half of Sudan to acquire independence would have wide-ranging effects on the region.

Biden was scheduled to hold a special meeting Wednesday dedicated to the situation in Somalia, where moderate Islamist President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has been mustering support for a major offensive against an Islamist insurgency.

Washington has repeatedly voiced concerns that one of Kenya's other troubled neighbours, Somalia, two thirds of which is controlled by the insurgents, was becoming a new haven for Al Qaeda operatives.

Kibaki for his part reiterated his concerns over the threat posed to Kenya's border by Somalia's Islamist rebels and to the impact of growing Somali piracy.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the US government to provide the leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilise Somalia," he said.

#### U.S. TO BOOST KENYA INVESTMENT AFTER NEW CONSTITUTION (UPDATE1) (BLOOM)

By Sarah McGregor



Bloomberg News, June 9, 2010

June 8 (Bloomberg) -- The passage of a new constitution in Kenya as well as the strengthening of democratic institutions will result in increased U.S. investment in the East African country, Vice President Joe Biden said.

"Americans want to do business here," Biden told reporters today in the capital, Nairobi. "With reforms this will come." He made the comments after talks with President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who are partners in Kenya's coalition government.

Kenyans will vote on Aug. 4 for a new constitution aimed at limiting presidential powers and narrowing ethnic divisions that were at the heart of post-election violence in 2008. A new constitution is the central element of a power-sharing accord that ended clashes in which an estimated 1,500 people died following the disputed December 2007 vote. The U.S. has backed the draft document, which it says will improve the prospects for democratic stability in Kenya.

Under the 2008 power-sharing agreement, Kibaki, an ethnic Kikuyu, secured a second five-year term as president and his political opponent, Odinga, of the Luo people, was installed in the newly created post of prime minister. The accord, brokered by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, committed the government to write a new constitution, improve courts and the police, and bring the worst perpetrators of the violence to justice.

Crimes Against Humanity

The Hague-based International Criminal Court will probably present cases against six Kenyans by the end of this year, following probes into crimes against humanity related to the post-election violence, ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said on May 12. Moreno-Ocampo began his investigation into the clashes after Kenya, East Africa's biggest economy, failed several times to create its own special tribunal last year.

"Putting in place a new constitution and strengthening your democratic institutions and rule of law will further open the door to major American development programs such as the Millennium Challenge Account and will, I predict, bring about reinvestment by American corporations and international organizations in Kenya that can provide millions of dollars in assistance and grants," Biden said.

Kenya's political leaders have promised a new charter for more than two decades to replace a constitution that dates back to the country's independence from Britain in 1963.

Referendum

Kenyan lawmakers agreed on the draft constitution on April 1. The text must be approved in a referendum by a majority of Kenyan voters in order for it to become law.

About 57 percent of registered voters will approve the draft on Aug. 4, while 20 percent will reject it, according a survey of 6,017 people conducted by the Nairobi-based polling company Synovate published on June 4. The rest are undecided or won't vote, Synovate said. The margin of error was 1.6 percentage points, it said.

Supporters and opponents of the draft constitution have been trying to sway public opinion by holding public rallies. Both Kibaki and Odinga publicly back the draft text that will be put to voters in the August referendum.

In an interview with state-run Kenya Broadcasting Corp. on June 1, President Barack Obama urged Kenyans to turn out in large numbers for the referendum.

"I'm openly supporting the process," Obama said. "I'm not openly supporting the result." Obama's late father was a Kenyan from the Luo ethnic group.

In Kenya until June 10, Biden is also scheduled to deliver a speech on Kenya-U.S. relations, meet with Southern Sudanese President Salva Kiir and speak with the Somali diaspora about that country's peace process.

OBAMA TO MEET ABBAS AS GAZA FALLOUT MOUNTS (AFP)

By Stephen Collinson

AFP, June 9, 2010

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas will ask President Barack Obama Wednesday for "bold decisions" on the Middle East but US-led peace moves face a torrid climate after Israel's Gaza flotilla raid.

Obama will welcome Abbas to the White House seeking to ensure regional fury over the May 31 Israeli commando strike does not doom indirect Israel-Palestinian talks that took months for



Washington to organize.

He will also discuss American efforts to break through a "status-quo" on the blockaded Gaza Strip, which his administration describes as "untenable" following the deadly Israeli maritime raid, which killed nine Turks.

"The president looks forward to receiving president Abbas to review progress in the proximity talks and discuss our common efforts to achieve Middle East peace," said Tommy Vietor, a White House spokesman.

Obama also wants to "reinforce our strong support for the Palestinian Authority and its state-building effort, and review ideas for a long-term strategy towards Gaza."

Officials would not discuss possible areas of progress during the visit, which comes a week after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled his own White House trip to deal with the fallout from the Gaza crisis.

But Obama, still working through the recriminations over the raid, fierce international condemnation of Israel and his own previously tense relations with Netanyahu's government, has little obvious room for maneuver.

Abbas will arrive in the United States from Turkey, a US ally increasingly at odds with Washington over Middle East politics and Iran's nuclear program.

Ankara has also furiously condemned the Gaza flotilla raid.

The Palestinian leader last week set a clear rhetorical framework for his long-awaited summit with the US president.

"My message to Obama during our meeting in Washington next week will be that we need bold decisions to change the face of the region," Abbas said at an investment conference in the West Bank.

It remains unclear exactly what Obama can offer Abbas, other than a public embrace, a vow not to give up navigating the treacherous diplomatic thicket of the Middle East and some hope of future humanitarian gestures to Gaza.

"What Obama says in private to Abbas may be as important as what he says in public," said Michele Dunne, a former State Department official now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

That private message may include Obama's assurances to stay the course, continue pressing Netanyahu and seek a commitment from the Israelis to enter direct talks after indirect, proximity consultations.

In public at least, Washington and the Abbas government are offering different interpretations on the current state of proximity talks with Israel brokered by US Middle East envoy George Mitchell. Abbas has already suggested the talks are encountering "difficulties" and "lots of obstacles." Washington has said the dialogue is "constructive" and "substantive," as it insists the talks must not be derailed by fallout from the Gaza crisis.

Vice President Joe Biden said in Egypt on Monday that Washington was looking for new ways to work on the "humanitarian, economic, security and political aspects of the situation in Gaza."

But the global controversy over what kind of inquiry should examine the showdown -- be it Israeli, international or a mixture of both -- is providing another headache for Obama's Middle East team. Uncertainty also clouds the state of the Obama administration's relationship with the Israeli government.

Netanyahu's visit last week was intended as an attempt to move on from the highly unusual public disagreements, when the Israeli leader last called at the White House visit in late March.

He was denied a photo-op and the normal trappings of a foreign leader's visit during that appearance, amid a public spat over Israeli settlement building.

Despite public attempts to smooth over the row, and a US refusal to so far explicitly condemn Israel's actions on the flotilla, the state of relations between the two governments remains unclear.

"I think there are a lot of questions. I don't think the dispute that was opened by the previous visit has completely healed," Dunne said.

#### FLOTILLA CLASH STILL MAKING WAVES IN MIDDLE EAST POLITICS (CNN)

CNN, June 9, 2010

(CNN) -- The political repercussions of Israel's raid of boats carrying aid to Gaza last week continued to ripple across the Middle East and showed no signs of slowing Tuesday.



Speaking to reporters outside an Asian security summit in Istanbul, Turkey, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the killing of nine Turkish activists by Israeli naval commandos aboard one vessel in the flotilla "will change many issues in the world" and marked the "final countdown" for Israel's existence.

"It shows that it has no room in the region, and no one is ready to live alongside it," he told reporters.

His comments came as more aid ships, some backed by regional powers, prepared to set sail. Israel has said its naval blockade is in place to stop weaponry from reaching militants in Gaza intent on attacking Israel. But critics say the three-year blockade -- imposed after Hamas took over Gaza -- has deepened poverty in the Palestinian territory.

According to the United Nations, 80 percent of Gaza's population depends on food aid.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Monday that the country's Red Crescent Society would also try to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza by sending food and medical supplies to the besieged Palestinian territory, according to Iranian media. Red Crescent official Abdul Rauf Adibzadeh told Iranian media one shipment of relief goods would arrive in Gaza via Egypt by the end of the week. Separately, a "Jewish boat" is planning to try to reach Gaza, two pro-Palestinian European Jewish groups announced Monday.

"Our purpose is to call an end to the siege of Gaza, to this illegal collective punishment of the whole civilian population," Edith Lutz said on behalf of European Jews for a Just Peace in the Near East, and Jews for Justice for Palestinians.

Meanwhile, thousands of tons of international aid, meant for Gaza but seized by Israel at sea, are languishing in an army base close to Tel Aviv. Wheel chairs and children's toys are among the goods.

Israel has screened the aid for banned materials, and is offering to transport the rest to Gaza by land.

But Hamas, the militant group which runs the territory, is refusing to take delivery in protest.

Israeli commandos intercepted the first convoy at sea May 31 and stormed the largest vessel, the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara.

On Saturday the Israeli military seized the MV Rachel Corrie, another aid ship, as it neared the Gaza coast.

The ships were carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, organizers said.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden said Monday that the present situation "is unsustainable for all sides," and that the Israelis and Palestinians needed to "move to direct negotiations as soon as possible that will result in an end to the occupation that began in 1967, and to a two-state solution to the conflict with Israel, and a Palestinian state living in peace and security."

The U.N. Security Council has called for an inquiry into the flotilla raid, and the U.N. Human Rights Council has condemned the assault and voted to launch an investigation.

Israeli officials have defended the legality of the raid, criticizing those aboard the Mavi Marmara for attacking the boarding party and insisting that they can handle the investigation themselves.

On Monday the Israeli military's chief of general staff has appointed a reserve general to lead "a team of experts" to examine Israel's interception of a flotilla bound for Gaza last week in order to "establish lessons from the event," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.

## ANXIOUS GAZANS TRYING TO LEAVE BLOCKADED TERRITORY (AP)

By Karin Laub

Associated Press, June 9, 2010

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - A Palestinian who had to delay graduate school in Malaysia and an elderly man forced to put off eye surgery in Egypt are among thousands anxiously trying to get out of Gaza now that the blockaded territory's gateway to the world has opened just a little.

A Hamas-run passenger terminal on the Gaza side of the border was packed on Tuesday with hundreds of Gazans trying to get clearance just to approach the crossing into Egypt. It was a chaotic scene, with stressed passengers arguing with overwhelmed Hamas border officials.

"Move back!" a Hamas official barked at the crowd from a hand-held microphone. Nearby, a black-clad policeman raised his club threateningly to cut short an argument with a middle-aged man.

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Many of Gaza's 1.5 million people have been forced to put their lives on hold during the three



years the territory's borders were sealed by Israel and Egypt, following the violent takeover by the Islamic militant Hamas.

Now, following last week's deadly Israeli raid on a blockade-busting flotilla, there is a glimmer of hope the darkest days may be over. In the wake of the assault that killed nine pro-Palestinian activists, world leaders have demanded the embargo be lifted or loosened.

Egypt's promise to keep the Rafah crossing open every day, rather than just sporadically, marks the first tangible improvement.

But even that gesture comes with many strings attached.

Only those with foreign passports or residency, or people requiring medical treatment or accepted at foreign universities are eligible to cross into Egypt. It's the same restricted group as in the past, though the steady opening of the terminal over the past week has helped reduce a backlog of thousands.

For some in the crowd on Tuesday, it was the second or third attempt in as many days to get out, with much at stake.

Hani Ihlayyel has been stuck in Gaza since returning for a summer visit in 2006 after earning a degree in computer engineering from a college in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

His plan was to return to Malaysia for graduate school, but instead the blockade forced him to remain in Gaza, where he said he wasted four years with odd jobs, including buying and selling computers. Gaza has several colleges and universities, but many areas of study, like medicine and advanced computer technology, are not available.

Ihlayyel tried several times to leave via Rafah in the past, but could never get all the necessary documents together, including an Egyptian security clearance and a spot on the Hamas-controlled waiting list. With Egypt opening Rafah only a few days every month or so, that list swelled to more than 8,000 by the end of May.

By Tuesday, just over 3,000 Gazans had crossed into Egypt, and Ihlayyel felt he might have a chance. He arrived at the Gaza terminal at 6:30 a.m. local time and waited for his name to be called to receive a ticket for a seat on a bus taking him to the border crossing.

Three hours later, a Hamas official announced over a loudspeaker that no more tickets would be issued for Tuesday because four buses had already crossed and no more would be accepted by Egypt. Those in the terminal, Ihlayyel among them, were now waiting for tickets to cross Wednesday.

As the oldest of six brothers, Ihlayyel said he feels pressure to succeed and that his future depends on getting out of Gaza. He said his nerves are frayed because the stakes are so high and so much can go wrong.

"I am afraid of Hamas, of Egypt, of everything," he said, clutching a plastic envelope with his travel documents. "I'm scared, actually."

Najwa Asmar and her three children failed to cross Tuesday, their second attempt in two days, but were promised they would get on the first bus Wednesday.

"Of course, I'm disappointed. For the last three days, we didn't get any sleep or rest," Asmar said as her teenage son Mohammed loaded their suitcase onto the roof of a taxi for the 45-minute drive back to Gaza City. Asmar hopes to spend the summer with Egyptian relatives she hasn't seen for years.

Nearby, 77-year-old Adnan Mohanna stood in the sun, waiting for word from Egypt that he was cleared to travel.

Hamas border officials had warned him that a local doctor's note saying he required eye surgery wasn't enough to get him across the border. His Egyptian eye surgeon, who operated on him eight years ago, would have to send word to the Egyptian authorities, he was told.

Mohanna and the others were visibly frustrated, but just shrugged when asked whom they blamed for their predicament, apparently fearful a critical word might jinx their chances of getting out of Gaza.

An Egyptian border official said about 500 Gazans, or seven busloads, are to be allowed to leave every day. Senior Hamas officials are banned from traveling, according to Egyptian officials.

Egypt has cooperated with Israel in enforcing the blockade, in part because it has been fighting homegrown Islamic radicals since the 1990s and feared Hamas' militancy could spill into Egyptian territory. However, Egypt's role in maintaining the blockade has hurt its standing in the Muslim and Arab world.



In recent days, Egypt has tried to shift responsibility for the blockade to Israel. Egypt's renewed promise on Monday to keep the Rafah terminal open came as Vice President Joe Biden met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and called for new ways of dealing with Gaza.

On Tuesday, Israel rebuffed calls led by Turkey for an international inquiry into what caused last week's deadly raid, saying it would conduct its own investigation.

Israel staunchly opposes a complete opening of the Gaza border, fearing that would strengthen Hamas, branded a terror group by the West, and allow the Islamic militants to bring in weapons, including missiles that could hit all over Israel.

However, Israel has suggested it is willing to expand the list of several dozen basic humanitarian items it has permitted into Gaza since 2007, while continuing to ban all exports.

Some in Gaza fear that in the end the international community, led by the U.S., will settle for only cosmetic adjustments.

Iyyad Saraj, a psychiatrist and leading figure among Gaza's independents, said partial solutions, such as a proposal by France to inspect aid ships before they reach Gaza, will only prolong Israeli control of Gaza's gates.

"If there is any kind of courage and leadership and moral standing, now is the moment to end the siege," he said.

#### DELAWARE CANDIDATE AND SEN. REID ARE FAST FRIENDS (HILL)

By Sean J. Miller

The Hill, June 9, 2010

Two months ago last week, Delaware Senate candidate Chris Coons (D) spoke to the Senate Democratic Conference during its weekly lunch.

"I gave about a 10-minute speech, got a standing ovation," Coons told The Ballot Box.

Appreciation wasn't the only thing he took away from the meeting.

"I've so far received about \$140,000 [in campaign contributions] from 30 sitting senators, which is a pretty substantial response," Coons said. "And a number of them have committed to hosting events for me."

To Coons's surprise, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was one of the senators who offered to host a fundraiser. "He called and he offered," Coons said. "We've got a date and a place and everything."

Coons said he couldn't go into the details until Reid's office made the official announcement. But he sounded upbeat about their growing friendship. "He and I have developed a really great relationship. I've been very pleasantly surprised," he said. "I didn't know him before this."

"And we have these fairly long personal talks and he's a very straight-up, engaging guy who's very concerned about my family. We talked about values, about 'How do you manage it?' and balancing things."

Coons didn't expect to find the majority leader so personable, he said. "He's a very gentle, gracious person."

Several people told Coons that Reid has been talking him up during fundraising events for his own reelection campaign.

"I've been very pleasantly surprised to hear that from folks in New York and Chicago, as well as here several times," Coons said. "He's taken a real personal interest in the race."

Coons, the New Castle County executive, is expected to face Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.) in the general election. He's been trailing in some recent polls but says his campaign operation is gearing up thanks to some help from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC). Coming off a "cold start," Coons said the DSCC lent him staff to get his campaign up and running. Still, he maintains he's managing his own race.

"They're very clear about, 'This is your race to win, we're here as a resource, we want to help you with strategic advice,'" Coons said. "But they are not telling me how to run or what positions to take."

From Vice President Joe Biden - Delaware's most famous Democrat - Coons said he'd received a "general offer of support and encouragement."

Reid's office did not respond to a request for comment.

#### DOWN WITH CELEBRITY GRADUATION SPEAKERS! UP WITH TEACHERS! (WP)



By Jay Mathews

Washington Post, June 9, 2010

I am going to ignore veteran journalist Helen Thomas's comments about Israel and Palestine that led to her withdrawing as graduation speaker at Walt Whitman High, the nearest public high school to my home in Bethesda, Md. I am going to focus instead on a longstanding gripe of mine---revived by the Thomas controversy---and a solution that just occurred to me.

I don't like the competition among colleges and high schools to get big names to speak at grad night. The emphasis is always on how famous the person is. If your high school gets Joe Biden, you are feeling good until the rival high school gets Barack Obama. Is that oneupsmanship in tune with the values we want our children to learn?

I want to say for the record that my problem with the celebrity speaker game has nothing to do with the fact that I was disinvited as a graduation speaker by one high school a few years ago when one of its rivals snared Hillary Clinton. I had a happy childhood, am loved by my wife and am above such pettiness.

But it seems worth noting that the outsiders chosen to speak to the graduating class, including me (I have done it twice), tend to be bad at it. They don't know the school well. They have little clue about what the graduating seniors are interested in. Their themes are the usual march-toward-your-future pap. The thunderous applause they receive when they are done is usually motivated by relief that that part of the program is over and party time awaits.

Here is my idea: Ban celebrity speakers, even minor celebrities, from high school graduation. (This would also be good advice for colleges, but they are simply too full of themselves to listen.) Who should speak instead?

Those two times I spoke to a graduating class, I used a trick I learned from a clever politician I once saw in action at a student gathering. He has made some calls, or had his staff make some calls, asking about humorous incidents at school that year. Who had embarrassed himself in the fundraiser dunk tank? Which couples got locked in the gym after that dance? How had the baseball team lost its equipment on that road trip?

It was fairly innocent stuff which he fashioned into a few jokes that killed. The graduating class was unaccustomed to adults even caring about its pranks and pratfalls. To hear a stranger talking about such stuff was charming and engaging. Since I am a reporter, it wasn't hard for me to gather similar tidbits before I spoke. They went over well.

Sadly, the more important and famous the outside speaker, the less likely he or she will bother with such preparations. But there is one way to make sure an adult speaker can connect with the class at its level.

Don't ask the local state senator, or the school board chair, or the principal's cousin who had a top ten single in the 1980s to speak. Ask a teacher.

I don't mean any teacher. Every school has a significant number of educators who love students, who are skilled classroom entertainers and who know what the graduating class is talking about. Occasionally a school will pick someone like that if the person is about to retire, but why wait until they are on their way out? Why not get them in their prime?

I realize some principals cringe, and with good reason, at the idea of some of their more articulate teachers being given fifteen minutes to address a hall full of parents and community leaders. The best teachers often can't be tamed, or fired. It is difficult to predict what they will say.

But graduation speeches should be exciting. Everyone involved will have the whole summer to get over, or forget, whatever is said. Let's make it a rule that only teachers picked by the students can address the graduates, and ban boredom from such events forever.

I confess that the local school that bounced me as speaker found that it did not have enough time to get a really big name, and so went with a teacher. Maybe it was out of desperation, but I am told the guy did a wonderful job, one of the best graduation speeches anyone had ever heard.

So take that Secretary Clinton, and all your famous friends. A great teacher with a point of view has it all over you as the person to sum up a high school class. And you can pretty much count on the teacher to stay away from foreign policy issues, which may be just as well.



# VICE PRESIDENTIAL *News Clips*

PRODUCED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

**TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT AND STAFF**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2010 -- 6:15 AM EDT**

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## WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES

### Curbside Recycling Pickups Now Delaware Law (WILNJ)

By Jeff Montgomery, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Delaware will phase in a universal curbside recycling mandate starting next year under a landmark measure signed Tuesday by Gov. Jack Markell.

The law also spells the end of the state's long-maligned 5-cent beverage bottle deposit law. A 4-cent per bottle, non-refundable fee will take its place on Dec. 1, then expire in 2014, with proceeds used to support initial recycling work.



Republican critics have alleged that the new fee is a camouflaged tax that could face a court challenge.

Under the new law, all waste haulers statewide must begin offering every-other-week curbside recycling pickups by Sept. 15, 2011 as part of their regular services, starting with single family homes, restaurants and bars. Service must expand to multi-family dwellings by January 1, 2013, and remaining businesses by Jan. 1, 2014.

Recycling will remain voluntary for state residents, although state officials plan to step up public education programs and efforts to promote the environmental and economic benefits of not wasting.

"Recycling is going to help us save money, improve our environment and create new jobs," Markell said during a brief ceremony near the slopes of Cherry Island Landfill in east Wilmington, Delaware's busiest waste disposal site.

The program, Markell added, will "restrain the cost of waste, it will reduce burdens on businesses and it will significantly increase recycling."

Along with the curbside recycling mandate, the law set a 50 percent municipal waste recycling goal to be reached by Jan. 1, 2015, and a 60 percent target for Jan. 1, 2020 -- higher than surrounding states and double the highest estimates of the state's current rate.

Proceeds from the new 4-cent bottle fee will be earmarked for grants, loans and other startup subsidies to offset equipment costs. Lawmakers capped total collections from the recycling fee at \$22 million, potentially forcing its cutoff before 2014.

Residents can continue to return bottles and reclaim 5-cent deposits from merchants until Feb. 1.

"I think it's going to be a big help. If it's something that's going to benefit this environment, yes, they should do it," said Judith Burris, a longtime resident of the Fairwinds community in Bear. "I know that it already has become more popular here. Not everybody is doing it, by any means, but a number of people do have their recycling picked up already."

DSWA will continue major landfill-based recycling programs and some Recycle Delaware drop off centers. Its own curbside pickup program -- which grew to tens of thousands of customers -- will end once private and municipal haulers are required to provide the service.

Sen. David B. McBride, D-Hawks Nest, who sponsored the Senate bill, said individuals and groups had been working for many of his 32 years in the General Assembly pushing for legislation to boost recycling.

The legislation cleared the General Assembly earlier this year after months of compromise talks launched by Markell last year. That effort picked up steam after Markell vetoed a bill last summer that would have simply repealed the state's 5-cent bottle deposit, without provisions for keeping bottles out of landfills.

Lawmakers approved the plan just ahead of a planned 50 percent rate increase for much of the household waste disposed at the Delaware Solid Waste Authority's landfills in all three counties.

"This is a real good opportunity to do it right," said Tom Houska, who represents Waste Management Inc.'s Delaware operations. "It gives everybody plenty of time to plan a transition. There's a lot involved."

Houska said his company could expand its residential service workforce by as much as 50 percent once the law takes effect.



Markell said that competition should hold down costs, allowing customers to shop for haulers with the best rates. Stepped up recycling should meanwhile hold down disposal costs for haulers, giving them savings that can help keep customer rates down.

Some critics of the plan argued that abandonment of the bottle deposit in favor of a recycling fee amounted to a new sales tax on a minority of beverage containers. Delaware's 28-year-old deposit program covered only smaller bottles of carbonated beverages and excluded ubiquitous beverages like tea, sports drinks and water.

Republican lawmakers warned that the fee unfairly singled out some businesses, and predicted a court challenge after Markell's signature. Additional Facts

#### ABOUT THE MEASURE

Recycling remains voluntary for all state residents. The measure requires all private or municipal government waste haulers to begin offering recycling pickups:

- . for all single-family home customers, restaurants and bars by Sept. 15, 2011;
- . for apartment buildings and other multifamily residences by Jan. 1, 2013;
- . for commercial sites by 2014.

#### **Repeal Of Middle-class Housing Initiative Proposed (WILNJ)**

By Chad Livengood, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

New Castle County Councilman Bill Powers has introduced a measure to repeal the county's Workforce Housing Ordinance, even though he voted for the controversial initiative in 2008.

The ordinance was designed to entice developers to build more homes priced under \$270,000, because county officials believed middle-class families were being priced out of the market prior to the housing industry collapse two years ago.

"I think we need to go back to the drawing board," said Powers, a Townsend Democrat.

Powers' repeal effort comes as he faces mounting criticism from southern New Castle County constituents who believe the ordinance will lower their property values, ruin the area's rural charm and strain schools and roads that already are overcrowded.

The Appoquinimink School District has seen a large share of the rampant growth in recent years, and plans to open another elementary school and an early childhood development center in fall 2012 to meet rising demand, said Superintendent Tony Marchio.

The school district is not opposed to work-force housing developments, Marchio said, but "the [school] board is very concerned with the rate of growth and the strain that it has put on the school system."

"The issue with us is just growth in general and will this exacerbate a problem we [already] have here and the strain that it puts on the citizens who live in this area," Marchio said.

Andy Daley, a Republican who is challenging Powers in the November election, said the councilman's repeal effort is "too little, too late" because there are already 18 work-force housing developments in the planning stage.

"He thought it was so wrong that he's willing to flip-flop on the issue," Daley said. "I can't see him shoring up enough votes from his fellow councilmen at this point to reverse what they worked so hard to pass two years ago."

Two of the 18 work-force housing developments were recorded with the county this spring, giving them the green light to break ground, according to the county Land Use Department.



Those developments are Bayberry North on Boyds Corner Road near Middletown and Marra Landing on Newport Gap Pike in Mill Creek. Even if the ordinance is repealed, the existing work-force housing developments would still have the right to go forward, county officials said.

Chuck Mulholland, an Odessa resident and vocal critic of the ordinance, said Powers' repeal effort is just going through the motions to file "a lot of fancy paperwork" to placate voters.

"In a campaign season, one would have to question the timeliness of it," said Mulholland, president of the Civic League of New Castle County. "It doesn't accomplish anything."

The county Planning Board will likely consider the repeal in late August or early September before it could advance to a council committee for consideration.

Powers admits repealing the ordinance is an uphill battle, requiring a simple majority of seven of the 13 council members to vote for the change.

But Powers contends he's not putting forth a repeal because he's up for re-election this year.

After its passage in 2008, Powers co-sponsored a temporary delay of the ordinance. He said he's been working on making changes to the ordinance behind the scenes for six months, but to no avail.

If the county is going to give developers flexibility to build more densely populated neighborhoods, Powers said, he wants a trade-off to ensure the new density doesn't overcrowd schools and take away from open space.

"If we're going to gain density in an area, let's preserve something somewhere else," Powers said of the ordinance.

Several council members and County Executive Chris Coons said Powers' repeal effort is premature because not a single moderately priced home has been built under the ordinance yet.

"I think we should give it time to work and come back and look at its impact," said Coons, a Democrat who is running for the U.S. Senate this year.

In many ways, the recession stopped the ordinance, as new construction has plummeted in the past two years, said Councilman George Smiley, a New Castle Democrat.

Smiley also wants to give the ordinance time to develop new, moderately priced housing stock in areas where home prices are out of reach for average middle-class families.

"A law is always a work in progress," Smiley said. "You can always make changes on the books. We do it all the time when we amend the code."

Smiley said arguments against the ordinance have been tinged with subtle discrimination based on race and economic class.

"To quote what I heard a lot of them say, they don't want 'those people' in their area," Smiley said. "I don't see how you look down your nose at someone who works for a living and can afford to pay \$250,000 or \$275,000 for a home."

The ordinance is designed to provide middle-income wage earners with more housing stock, not subsidize their living arrangements like some government programs, Coons said.

"This is not about busloads of Section 8 inhabitants from Chester coming to turn the farm fields of Odessa into slums," Coons said.

## **University Of Delaware Robot Scours Sea For Signs Of Oil (WILNJ)**

By Wade Malcolm, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

LEWES -- A few weeks ago, University of Delaware assistant professor Matt Oliver figured his underwater robot would spend a typical summer trolling the mid-Atlantic seas recording water conditions.



Those plans changed quickly after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico started seeping to the east. Mote Marine Laboratories of Sarasota, Fla., needed Oliver's autonomous device to patrol Florida's Gulf Coast.

So glider robot UD134, affectionately known by researchers as the Blue Hen, dove into Gulf waters off the coast of Key West last week and started looking for signs of oil.

Just as it has for so many other scientists and engineers around the country, the spill has seized the focus of UD's School of Marine Science and Policy. Oliver and his colleagues have spent a hectic few weeks setting up computer programs to analyze the data the robot collects and relays via satellite.

The Blue Hen is part of a larger effort mounted by Mote, government agencies and universities as the oil approaches marine ecosystems surrounding Florida. The mission highlights some particular challenges created by the country's worst oil spill, gushing about a mile underwater: Researchers have developed most tracking, containment and environmental mitigation techniques for surface oil spills.

By measuring currents, temperature and water density, the Blue Hen -- and three similar robots from Rutgers University and the University of South Florida -- could help predict where the slick might head next. But, perhaps more importantly, they scout the depths for pockets of petroleum floating below the surface. The underwater oil is a source of growing concern for government officials and environmentalists. In a news conference Monday, Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said the oil has dispersed into hundreds of patches, meaning cleanup could take years.

The oil pooling on the surface is tracked easily from satellites or planes, scientists said. The dispersants act on the slick the way soap does on greasy hands. The oil washes away into the water, becoming less visible. But it doesn't disappear, Oliver said.

"If you disperse it, you get less gory photos of oil-drenched pelicans," Oliver said. "But it's not a solution to the problem. You're just choosing new victims."

Some of the subsurface petroleum will find its way into ocean sediments. If the concentration becomes high enough, it could destroy marine habitats, breeding grounds and food supplies, said Dominic DiToro, a UD professor of environmental engineering who researches aquatic and sediment toxicity.

"It's like dissolving a poison in cake batter," he said. "Long after that's gone, it's the sediments that will be the problem."

So far, none of the glider robots have detected subsurface oil headed in Florida's direction. But a large plume of oil sits inside a loop current precariously close to the Gulf Stream, which would carry the slick up the Eastern Seaboard. But seeing any oil in Delaware is "highly unlikely," Oliver said, thanks to the protection of the continental shelf.

Scientists at Mote labs are most concerned about Florida's barrier reef near the Keys, where the Blue Hen was launched. The only barrier reef in North America, it supports hundreds of species.

The Blue Hen patrols by beaming light down to the Gulf floor. If it reflects back with a certain fluorescence, hydrocarbons could be present, Oliver said. Research ships from Mote or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would then take samples to determine the oil's concentration and potential environmental impact.

The work of the Blue Hen -- and the efforts of other glider robots -- to track the movement of hydrocarbons has never been done before, reflecting the unprecedented nature of the crisis, Oliver said.



"That combination of things is, to my understanding, unique," said Gary Kirkpatrick, a senior scientist at Mote overseeing the operation. "We're discovering how to do these things, this particular task, as we go along."

Although none of them would have chosen this task, Oliver and the other researchers have marveled at the way advanced communications have aided collaboration and real-time monitoring of water conditions.

"It's horrifying what's going on down there, but it's been amazing the way different organizations have come together to do this," he said. "Ten years ago, no way it would have happened."

Oliver can track the Blue Hen's location and the data it collects in real time on nine LCD flat screens in his Lewes lab.

With its onboard satellite phone, the Blue Hen sends a voicemail to a call center in Arizona every three hours, Oliver said. The call center routes the text of the message to an IP address, which triggers an e-mail alert on Oliver's BlackBerry. The dense data set the robot reports feeds into mapping programs Oliver devised, providing a visual sense of conditions in that part of the Gulf.

Even if the researchers successfully track the petroleum's path, they will be powerless to stop it. The Blue Hens' mission is more about assessing the spill's impact to aid cleanup in the years to come. The process will be long and difficult, Oliver said.

"People keep asking, 'What can we do?' " Oliver said. "And I have to say, 'I'm not sure.' There are no good ways to clean subsurface oil." Additional Facts

ABOUT UD134 'BLUE HEN'

POWER SOURCE: More than 100 C-volt batteries

LENGTH: 5 feet

LOCOMOTION: The glider robot moves by adjusting its retractable nose, which changes its buoyancy to propel it forward.

SPEED: 1.6 miles per hour

WEIGHT: 115 pounds

SOURCE: University of Delaware's Matt Oliver and Teledyne Webb Research

### **Former Delaware Lawmaker Ada Leigh Soles Dies (WILNJ)**

By Robin Brown, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Education advocate and former state representative Ada Leigh Soles of Newark died Monday night at age 73.

Her husband of more than 50 years, University of Delaware Distinguished Professor Emeritus James R. Soles, said, "She was outstanding in every way."

"She was a very, very special lady and an unbelievable presence, a tremendous mother and grandmother," said her son-in-law Paul J. Pomeroy, a Newark city councilman. "It's a tough loss, not only for the family, but for the community."

A representative from 1980 through 1992, she had five Joint Finance Committee terms, led grant reform and championed ethics, education and libraries.

U.S. Rep. Mike Castle, offered condolences, calling her "a very bright, kind-hearted, compassionate and genuine woman who always had the best interest of her constituents and district in mind." Recalling times with her when he was governor, Castle said, "I will always remember very fondly her sincerity for helping others."



Soles decided not to run again as Parkinson's disease began to tire her, but she became a senior adviser to then-Gov. Tom Carper.

"We needed somebody who understood the legislature, knew the legislators and was trusted by both Republicans and Democrats," Carper said. "Because of her, they were willing to work with us."

Carper said her death made him sad, but grateful he knew her.

Soles had been in a Newark-area care facility for the past 18 months. "She was in such bad health for so long," James said, "at least she is now at peace."

Ada Leigh and James met in college, working at a summer camp in their home state of Florida. She was valedictorian at Landon High School, Jacksonville, where her mother had been the first valedictorian, and studied English at Florida State University.

"I knew she was the only person on Earth I would be happy with," he said. "I proposed to her over 300 times, once twice in one day." She finally agreed.

Ada Leigh was first in her class, president of Alpha Chi Omega and the student body.

In 1968, they came to Newark. As their two daughters grew, she worked at UD, led library groups and the League of Women Voters before she was recruited to run for the House. She is in the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame and received honors from the University of Delaware, National Library Association, the Delaware Bar Association and Delaware Humanities Forum.

Last year, a student of 45 years earlier wrote to her that Ada Leigh made a huge difference in her life. James "read that letter to her many, many times."

On Aug. 1, James held her hand and said it was their 50th anniversary. "She said, just as clear as a bell, 'We were married on a Saturday,'" he said. "That was the last moment that I'm certain she knew who I was."

She is survived by Catherine and Paul J. Pomeroy, children Paul IV and Julia; Nancy Beth and Dan Garrett of California and children Elizabeth Leigh, Thomas, Maggie and Jack.

A memorial will be 11 a.m. Monday at St. James Episcopal Church, 2916 St. James Church Road, Stanton. The family suggests gifts to Friends of Newark Free Library, 750 Library Ave., Newark, DE 19711 or Food Bank of Delaware, 14 Garfield Way, Newark, DE 19713.

### **Espionage Case Set For Sentencing (WILNJ)**

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

A former DuPont Co. research chemist who confessed to industrial espionage is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court on Sept. 14.

Hong Meng, 43, faces a maximum of 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a federal charge of theft of trade secrets. He also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Meng admitted to stealing sensitive research information from the DuPont Co. Meng planned to use the research on organic light-emitting diodes to compete with DuPont after he took a teaching position in China, officials from the United States Attorney's Office of Delaware said Tuesday.

In the spring of 2009, Meng accepted a position on the faculty of Peking University College of Engineering in Beijing, while still employed by DuPont and without company permission, prosecutors said. He made a presentation to a regional Chinese government to get financial support for his OLED research, they said.



The investigation also found that, in August of 2009, Meng mailed a package with 109 samples of DuPont chemical compounds to a colleague at Northwestern University, asking that they be forwarded to Meng's office in Beijing.

Meng also admitted lying to the FBI during the course of their investigation, according to a statement from David C. Weiss, the U.S. attorney, and Richard A. McFeely, special agent in charge of the Baltimore FBI field office.

"Ensuring the protection of sensitive technologies created by our trusted partners in the private sector has, and will remain, a critical goal of the FBI's Wilmington office," McFeely said in a statement. "We remain committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who exploit U.S. technologies for their own gain."

"The conviction of Dr. Hong Meng demonstrates our office's commitment to prosecuting offenses involving the unauthorized accessing of trade secret information. We will continue to vigilantly enforce intellectual property offenses, particularly when such offenses involve the possible transmittal of sensitive trade secret information outside the United States," Weiss said in a statement.

### **Billboard Makes A Splash In Downtown Wilmington (WILNJ)**

By Eric Ruth, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

WILMINGTON -- Big names and big aspirations deserve big gestures.

That belief was the impetus behind the supersized billboard now looming over Market Street, believed to be the biggest wrap-around-style installation of its kind in the country.

Part cultural tribute, part city-pride pep talk, the sign was conceived by developer Buccini/Pollin Group more as an artful mural than pure marketing schtick. On the 145-by-25-foot sign, six Delaware artists of international renown are portrayed over a cityscape, topped with the exhortation "Celebrate the music and soul of our city."

There's Clifford Brown, jazz trumpet great and Wilmingtonian. David Bromberg, folk musician and current city resident. Bob Marley, reggae singer extraordinaire who lived in Delaware for a time. Cab Calloway, boogie-woogie bandleader and inspiration for the School of the Arts that bears his name.

Around the corner along Seventh Street, the sign continues: Susan Stroman, Tony Award-winning theater director and choreographer. And finally George Thorogood, "Bad to the Bone" rock musician.

For the local firms involved, the billboard stands as a gracefully executed, tastefully articulated reminder. In a city that can be prone to doubting its ability to boast, it helps to show Wilmingtonians -- and outsiders -- that the city's cultural heritage is bigger than many might think, and that its future holds potential to honor that past.

"For us, it was a perfect fit, because we moved downtown because we believe in the revitalization of downtown," said Matt Urban, president of Mobius New Media, which did design work on the billboard.

Artistically, the billboard sought to evoke a redefined vision of the city through a still-vital past. Structurally, it had to be assembled with painstaking precision to avoid appearing "hung there" like some cheap banner.

"We really wanted to capture the essence of Wilmington and incorporate the musicians and artists" who stand as examples of a legacy to be celebrated, said Marnay Harris, 23, Mobius' lead designer on the project.



Installation took a crew of six about 12 hours -- and more than a few brainstorming sessions to get the "crease" where it wraps around the building straight and crisp, said Simon Cranny, owner of Precision Color Graphics in Wilmington. More than 1,000 clips were used to mount the mesh sign onto a recycled-aluminum frame.

"Each one of those is what tightens the graphic," Cranny said. "That's what gives it the seamless look. It had to be aesthetically pleasing, but it also had to be architecturally sound."

Cranny suspects the sign is sound enough to hang for the next five years. After all the work that went into it, it had better.

"It was one of those things where you were happy to do it and happy to be done with it," he joked.

### **DuPont Gets Regulatory OK For Genetically Altered Soybean (WILNJ)**

By Jonathan Starkey, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved soybean seeds that DuPont genetically modified to produce more healthful cooking oil, DuPont's biotech seed business said Tuesday.

Pioneer Hi-Bred's "Plenish" branded soybean produces oil with 20 percent less saturated fat than traditional soybean oil and no trans fats.

Naturally, soybean oil contains no trans fats, a Pioneer spokesman said. That fat is added during the process of hydrogenation -- adding hydrogen to the oil -- which stabilizes it and allows food companies to fry with it at high temperatures.

Fatty soybean oil has lost market share in the cooking oil market in recent years, as food companies have taken steps to reduce trans fats in their foods.

"Obtaining USDA deregulation for Plenish high-oleic soybeans is an example of Pioneer's increased focus and capability in moving biotech traits through global regulatory systems and into farmers' fields," Paul Schickler, Pioneer's president, said in a statement.

Pioneer will introduce the Plenish soybeans in its Pioneer brand Y varieties.

DuPont said Monday that the soybean has been shown to offer similar yields as products already on the market.

The Plenish product will be field-tested this year and next, and DuPont expects a full commercial rollout in 2012.

The company expects to receive regulatory approval from the European Union and other important soybean importers worldwide, such as China, Japan and Taiwan, by 2012.

The product has already received regulatory approval in Canada and Mexico. The go-ahead from the USDA was the final U.S. regulatory hurdle.

### **Delaware Business: Tigani Bankruptcy Halts Sheriff's Sale (WILNJ)**

By Esteban Parra And Maureen Milford, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Liquor distributor Christopher Tigani filed bankruptcy documents Tuesday, stopping a sheriff's sale of his Westover Hills mansion that formerly belonged to Charles Cawley, founder of MBNA credit card bank.

The filing creates an automatic stay that prevents Tigani's creditors from taking any action to collect a debt. The stay could hold them at bay for up to four months as Tigani comes up with a plan to repay his



debts, said Juliet M. Moringiello, a bankruptcy professor at Widener University School of Law's Harrisburg campus.

"Really, the punch line is a bankruptcy filing does hold off a foreclosure, but it doesn't hold it off forever," Moringiello said.

Tigani, who filed the seven-page document in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

In his plan, Tigani will have to agree to pay for his home in full or lose it, Moringiello said. That's because people cannot modify their home mortgages during bankruptcy. Moringiello said the mortgage company could file a petition claiming its interests are not being protected.

Tigani filed Chapter 11, which allows him to reorganize under the bankruptcy code, about an hour before the sheriff's sale was to start.

He estimated he owes between \$10,000,001 and \$50 million. He stated the same amount for his assets. The debts are primarily consumer debts that were incurred for "personal, family or household purpose," according to the filing.

Among the 28 creditors Tigani listed were five law firms, Flowers by Yukie, BMW Financial Services, North Hills Cleaners and Strictly Gutter Cleaning. The filing did not say how much he owed each business.

Had the sale gone through, it would have been one of the highest-profile mortgage meltdowns in Wilmington's recent history. The 23,937-square-foot home just off Del. 52 was bought by Tigani in 2008.

Tigani, who has been embroiled in a bitter legal battle with his father, Robert Tigani, over control of the family's lucrative liquor business, N.K.S. Distributors Inc. in New Castle, declined to comment Monday after losing a bid in Delaware Chancery Court to keep the house off the auction block until the judge ruled on a claim against Wilmington Trust Co. that related to the overall N.K.S. battle.

Christopher Tigani had alleged that Wilmington Trust, which gave him a \$4.1 million adjustable-rate mortgage in 2008, conspired with his father and N.K.S. to force him out of the liquor business. But Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons Jr., who has presided over the father-son dispute, wrote Monday that Tigani has not shown a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits of the case.

"... Because, even if Bob and N.K.S. acted wrongfully, it seems unlikely that Chris' evidence will be sufficient to show that WTC knowingly entered into a confederation with Bob and N.K.S. to oust Chris from his position at N.K.S.," Parsons wrote.

The evidence shows that the actions Wilmington Trust took were simply to safeguard the bank's interest, Parsons wrote.

The mortgage called for Tigani to pay installments of interest monthly until June 2009, when the mortgage matured and the entire sum secured by the mortgage was due and payable in full. Tigani also took out a \$1 million loan from Wilmington Trust to purchase furniture for the residence.

When Tigani failed to pay the entire sum, Wilmington Trust filed a foreclosure action against him in July in Superior Court. The bank got a judgment in Superior Court earlier this year. Tigani chose not to appeal.

Instead he went to Chancery Court in March and got a reprieve on the sheriff's sale from Parsons.

Parsons extinguished the temporary restraining order Monday and denied Tigani's motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the bank from completing the sheriff's sale.



In testimony before Parsons on Friday, Timothy Jay Houseal, the attorney for Wilmington Trust, said Tigani had lived in the house rent-free for a year and it was harmful to the bank to have a \$5 million property "sitting there."

An inspection of the house showed significant problems, including a flat roof that was leaking and needed an estimated \$200,000 in repairs.

"The property is not maintained in the pristine condition that Mr. Cawley had it," said Houseal, who would not comment Tuesday on Tigani's filing. "The value of the property is decreasing in the market as long as Mr. Tigani owns it."

Tigani countered that there were "big shoes to fill" to maintain the house the way Cawley did.

"I'm doing the very best I can, but I don't have a staff," he said.

Still, Tigani admitted he made a mistake when he bought the house.

"If I had to take it back, I would not have bought it," Tigani said. "But the fact is I did buy it."

### **Delaware Environment: Volunteers Sought For Sixth Annual Cleanup Of The Inland Bays (WILNJ)**

By The (salisbury, Md.) Daily Times

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

DEWEY BEACH -- The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Center for the Inland Bays are looking for volunteers for the sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays on June 19.

This year, the cleanup will once again concentrate on two locations. The northern group will meet at the Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road and concentrate on the Rehoboth and Indian River bays. The southern group will meet at the Mulberry Landing Public Boat Ramp at the Assawoman Wildlife Area just southwest of Bethany Beach.

Last year's event drew 100 volunteers who collected a large quantity of debris, including soda bottles and cans, tires and derelict crab pots. A large construction trash bin was donated and filled by the end of the day.

"With this event, we are continuing our public outreach on behalf of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware State Parks, the Center for the Inland Bays and our Fish and Wildlife Enforcement volunteers," said DNREC's Capt. Aaron Hurd.

Volunteers should dress to get dirty and be prepared for cooler conditions on the water, as well as wet walking conditions on land. Boots are also suggested. Those who have access to life jackets should bring one, as they are required on boats. Otherwise, life jackets will be provided. Young children should not attend.

Local businesses are donating money, food and equipment. Volunteers who can bring shallow-draft boats are encouraged to take part.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, as lunch and T-shirts will be provided. Additional Facts

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays

WHERE: Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road or Mulberry Landing Public Boat Ramp at the Assawoman Wildlife Area near Bethany Beach

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., June 19

CONTACT: 270-8496 or [aaron.hurd@state.de.us](mailto:aaron.hurd@state.de.us)



## **Delaware Skateboarders' Park Falls Victim To Bulldozer (WILNJ)**

By Dara McBride, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Worried about liability issues, state workers bulldozed an unauthorized skateboard park at an abandoned supermarket site in Stanton on Tuesday.

Sean Suvie, 22, and Shawn Skibicki, 26, who were among the area skateboarders who built the "Pink Spot" over the past four months, said they spent about \$3,000 to pour concrete, clean up graffiti and paint. The problem: The site was built without permission on state property.

"Up until this point, no one said 'no,'" Suvie said.

The Pink Spot, on West Newport Pike, was built on a former Acme supermarket lot that was painted pink. Skibicki said the park was 12 years in the making -- he and friends would skateboard in the parking lot, and after the building was demolished two years ago, it became an ideal site. The skaters thought the flat, abandoned lot would never be developed, Skibicki said, because it is located on a flood plain.

The park was a liability to the state, Delaware Department of Transportation Manager of North District Operations Bill Thatcher said, noting officials were alerted to the problem about two weeks ago after a teenage skateboarder injured his leg at the site.

"It's state property. The accident happened, the child was hurt, police were called and something had to be done," Thatcher said.

DelDOT has owned the property since 2004.

DelDOT spokesman Mike Williams said a department team of three or four men cleaned park benches and pizza boxes from the site. DelDOT plans to reinstate the "No Trespassing" signs that had been removed by users and keep the site empty.

The state's decision to clean up the site, which hadn't been announced, angered some skateboarders, who assembled at the site Tuesday and shouted curses at the DelDOT crew, Thatcher said.

After one skateboarder urinated on a DelDOT truck, workers called police, and a New Castle County officer and a state trooper responded. No arrests were made.

Ben Jones, co-owner of Kinetic Skateboarding in Brandywine Hundred, said he wishes state officials would change their minds because the state doesn't have a free skate park.

"I think it should be a no-brainer, given that none of the government here has been able to create a safe, free place to skate," he said.

Mark Calder, co-founder of the Wilmington Skate Project, said, "I don't blame anybody for doing something that needs to be done."

Calder said it is time for the state to respond to the need for a skate park because the sport is one of the most popular.

"There are baseball fields and tennis courts all around," he said.

The project began working on a temporary location at East Seventh Street Park in Wilmington last month.

Wilmington City Council planned a \$250,000 public skateboard park in 2007 but has been unable to secure funding, said City Councilman Kevin Kelley, who hopes the park can be built once economic conditions improve.

Suvie said skaters realize now that how they built the Stanton park was a problem.



"If we could have this back and do it legally, we would. And we would make it bigger and safer," Suvie said.

But he believes in what the skaters were doing.

He said the site taught skateboarders as young as 8 skating etiquette. He bought trash cans and bags for the site, and neighbors thanked the skaters for keeping the area free of litter and graffiti, he said.

After the demolition was completed, Suvie went back to the spot to gather up pieces of the pink rubble for himself and his friends.

"It's just something to remember it by, because we're never going to have a spot like this again," he said.

### **Delaware Government: New Animal Shelter Standards Pushed (WILNJ)**

By Ginger Gibson, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

DOVER -- Animal shelters would be subject to new regulations that would reduce the number of animals euthanized under legislation announced Tuesday by legislators and Gov. Jack Markell.

Senate Bill 280 would create the first statewide standards for the five animal shelters currently operating in the state and any new shelters that might open, Senate Majority Leader Patricia Blevins, D-Elsmere, said.

"It will create uniformity on the way they treat animals in their facilities," Blevins said.

The bill is the most recent in a series meant to improve animal protection. Legislation to allow dogs that attack cats to be deemed dangerous was passed by the Senate is awaiting action in the House. A bill increasing penalties for attending animal fights was signed by Markell last month.

The newest bill requires that animals receive inoculations within nine hours of entering a shelter and see a veterinarian within three days, said Blevins, the bill's sponsor.

It also would require that shelters post online photos of all lost and stray dogs they receive, Blevins said, to make it easier for people to locate their pets.

"This effort makes it easier for families to adopt pets, makes it safer for pets as they await adoption and makes it very clear that our existing state shelters are committed to quality standards," Markell said in a news release.

Shelters such as the Kent County SPCA that euthanize animals would have to contact the other shelters before killing an animal to see if there is room for it somewhere else, Blevins said. This requirement should reduce the number of animals euthanized, she said.

Blevins isn't concerned that stray animals will be turned away from shelters if more pets are kept alive, because the Kent County SPCA is required to accept all animals from Kent and New Castle counties.

The legislation establishes standards and procedures for euthanizing animals. The use of decompression chambers would be prohibited and animals must be supervised from the time of lethal injections until death.

The legislation is co-sponsored by Rep. Melanie George, D-Bear, in the House.

"They say that you can judge society by how well it treats the least well-off members," George said in a news release. "Animals who are housed in shelters are among the least well-off living creatures. They deserve to be treated how we would want any of our pets to be treated."

### **Delaware Environment: Volunteers Sought For Sixth Annual Cleanup Of The Inland Bays (WILNJ)**



By The (salisbury, Md.) Daily Times

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

DEWEY BEACH -- The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Center for the Inland Bays are looking for volunteers for the sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays on June 19.

This year, the cleanup will once again concentrate on two locations. The northern group will meet at the Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road and concentrate on the Rehoboth and Indian River bays. The southern group will meet at the Mulberry Landing Public Boat Ramp at the Assawoman Wildlife Area just southwest of Bethany Beach.

Last year's event drew 100 volunteers who collected a large quantity of debris, including soda bottles and cans, tires and derelict crab pots. A large construction trash bin was donated and filled by the end of the day.

"With this event, we are continuing our public outreach on behalf of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware State Parks, the Center for the Inland Bays and our Fish and Wildlife Enforcement volunteers," said DNREC's Capt. Aaron Hurd.

Volunteers should dress to get dirty and be prepared for cooler conditions on the water, as well as wet walking conditions on land. Boots are also suggested. Those who have access to life jackets should bring one, as they are required on boats. Otherwise, life jackets will be provided. Young children should not attend.

Local businesses are donating money, food and equipment. Volunteers who can bring shallow-draft boats are encouraged to take part.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, as lunch and T-shirts will be provided. Additional Facts

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### **Putting Their Lives Back Together (WILNJ)**

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Residents displaced from their homes by a deadly fire in Dover on Sunday were allowed to return to the building to recover some belongings Tuesday.

Management teams and local authorities escorted residents of the Woodcrest Arms apartments to find what they could salvage. The early morning fire heavily damaged the 28-unit building, caused two deaths and injured nine people, including firefighters. A total of 150 people were left homeless.

Carmesha Truitt, 21, and her boyfriend, Jordan Speight, were among those allowed inside to gather what they could. They went with hopes of getting much more than they left with.

She got her 17-month-old son's diapers, her collection of 200 DVDs, a TV her mother had given her for Christmas and a diamond-studded necklace that Speight bought her for Christmas.



"Besides that, there was nothing else we could really take," Truitt said. "It looked like water damage took over our apartment. Our bathroom was destroyed. I think we were upset because hardly any of us had insurance and that's all of our stuff that we have to purchase again," Truitt said.

Truitt and Speights found a new apartment in Dover, but the rent is \$100 a month more than the \$650 they had been paying.

"I have faith that everything is going to be okay," she said. "I believe that God will fix everything for everybody."

Karen McAlonen, vice president of property operations, said the experience of visiting the damaged apartments has been stressful for everyone.

"We are working hand in hand with our residents to help them in every way we can," she said. "This was an emotional day for our residents and for our team."

Officials believe the fire started on the ground floor, raced up a stairwell and across the building's roof. Some residents leapt from windows because the fire moved so quickly.

The body of Jacqueline Wuest, 61, was found inside the building Sunday. Christina Lynn Taylor, 33, of Felton, died Monday as a result of her injuries.

Dover police would not say whether Taylor was one of two occupants of the building taken to Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa., in critical condition Sunday. An update on the condition of those victims has not been released.

Agencies including the American Red Cross are finding accommodations for those displaced by the fire. Dover's Central Delaware YMCA has been taking donations. Area restaurants, including Outback and Olive Garden have been feeding displaced residents.

Rep. Darryl Scott, D-Dover, sent an e-mail to lawmakers and supporters asking for donations for the victims of the fire. He placed boxes around Legislative Hall to collect items.

"Anything you think a family that lost everything needs, we could use," he said.

The Dover Fire Marshal's Office is still trying to determine the cause of the fire. Crews will be at the scene again today. The Fire Marshal's Office has also turned queries about the investigation over to the police department because there were fatalities.

### **Delaware Police Defend Delay In Rape Alert (WILNJ)**

By Terry Sanginiti And Sarah Larson, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

While the head of the state police Tuesday defended his detectives' decision to not initially release information on a rape investigation, some area women who work near where the abduction happened expressed anger at the delayed notification.

State Police Superintendent Col. Robert M. Coupe also said internal affairs is investigating how a sensitive Delaware Information & Analysis Center (DIAC) bulletin was released to the public.

And security was stepped up Tuesday at the two locations where the abductions occurred.

"It never really dawned on me that it could happen," said Sallie Mae employee Jennifer Dudkewitz as she walked into an office building at 300 Continental Drive in Stanton. "With police around, it feels safer."

Sallie Mae corporate officials declined to discuss the increased measures they are taking, saying it would be a "breach of security."

But a state trooper was stationed in the parking lot.



"We work hard to provide a safe environment for our employees and visitors," said Martha Holler of Sallie Mae. "The entire community is outraged by the recent incidents. Given where we live and work in the area, we are engaged with police and helping them to bring this criminal to justice."

A 27-year-old woman was abducted at gunpoint there last Wednesday from the First State Surgery parking lot, driven around for five hours, raped three times and forced to withdraw money at an ATM. A 22-year-old woman also was abducted at gunpoint Saturday morning in the parking lot at Sallie Mae and driven around by the gunman, who raped her and returned her to the parking lot 45 minutes later.

Patricia Telford, executive director of ContactLifeline, which provides crisis counseling for rape victims, said the public needs to be notified if a forcible rape and abduction occurs.

"We need to take the victims seriously," Telford said. "All rapists are serial rapists. No rapist rapes once."

The police's job is to investigate and gather data, and that's the route they follow, Telford said.

"When something of this nature happens, abducted by gunpoint in the parking lot of where she works, it should have raised the level of security awareness to women," she said.

Ellen Nelson, of Newark, a recipient of the DIAC bulletin, said she was upset that the information was not released sooner.

"As a mother and a woman, I am outraged that the police did not notify the public in a prompt and timely manner," she said. "Is that not their job? Who knows if the second attack would have been prevented if public notification had taken place."

Coupe said detectives were focused on the investigation, visiting the locations that the first victim pointed out and hoped to recover evidence "that would have led to a quick resolution."

"Unfortunately, there was another incident," he said. "They were balancing the responsibility to the public with justice for the victim while maintaining the integrity of the investigation."

He said it was an "investigative decision" not to release too much information.

"If too much information is put out, it can hamper the investigation," Coupe said. Details are not disclosed immediately to protect the victim and others are not disclosed to protect the investigation."

When a bank is robbed, the surveillance photo and information are published soon after, Nelson said.

"Are the women who live and work in this area not more valuable than that?" she asked.

State police conducted a reverse 911 Monday night alerting the public in the areas of the abductions.

They are displaying the composites of the suspect on Clear Channel's digital billboard, on northbound I-95 near Newark and south of the rest area.

"We have received a lot of tips and are trying to keep up with it," said state police Sgt. Walter Newton. "We're hoping that we receive information that will lead to an identification."

Other patients and staff members going in and out of the building also thought police should have informed the public sooner.

"It's a shame that there are any crimes like that and that they are coming more and more to the suburbs and nicer areas," said Linda Evans, of Newark. "On the other hand, you just need to be wise and you can't live in fear."

Sharon Williams, of Stanton, said her niece alerted her about the incident because she was going to the medical practice for the first time Tuesday.



"I heard about it and that's really terrible," Williams said of the rape. "It's not really safe anymore anywhere."

Addressing the release of the DIAC bulletin -- that was widely circulated by e-mail -- Coupe said it was never meant for the public.

The bulletin, also received by The News Journal, contained details about the two incidents police did not release.

"It's unfortunate that it fell into the public domain," Coupe said. "It is circulated to law enforcement and that's its intended use, for law enforcement."

He said there are concerns that it was made public and it's now under investigation as to who exactly released it.

"We are addressing that internally," Coupe said.

### **Delaware Roads: Bear Crash Kills One, Injures Two (WILNJ)**

By The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

New Castle County police say at least one person died after being ejected in a head-on crash in Bear on Tuesday afternoon.

The accident happened about 2:45 p.m. on Reybold Road, near the Gray Acres development.

Two other occupants of the vehicles were taken to Christiana Hospital for evaluation.

The seriousness of their injuries was not known Tuesday, said police Senior Cpl. Trinidad Navarro.

The investigation is continuing. The road was closed until about 6 p.m.

### **Espionage Case Set For Sentencing (WILNJ)**

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

A former DuPont Co. research chemist who confessed to industrial espionage is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court on Sept. 14.

Hong Meng, 43, faces a maximum of 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a federal charge of theft of trade secrets. He also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Meng admitted to stealing sensitive research information from the DuPont Co. Meng planned to use the research on organic light-emitting diodes to compete with DuPont after he took a teaching position in China, officials from the United States Attorney's Office of Delaware said Tuesday.

In the spring of 2009, Meng accepted a position on the faculty of Peking University College of Engineering in Beijing, while still employed by DuPont and without company permission, prosecutors said. He made a presentation to a regional Chinese government to get financial support for his OLED research, they said.

The investigation also found that, in August of 2009, Meng mailed a package with 109 samples of DuPont chemical compounds to a colleague at Northwestern University, asking that they be forwarded to Meng's office in Beijing.

Meng also admitted lying to the FBI during the course of their investigation, according to a statement from David C. Weiss, the U.S. attorney, and Richard A. McFeely, special agent in charge of the Baltimore FBI field office.

"Ensuring the protection of sensitive technologies created by our trusted partners in the private sector has, and will remain, a critical goal of the FBI's Wilmington office," McFeely said in a statement.



"We remain committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who exploit U.S. technologies for their own gain."

"The conviction of Dr. Hong Meng demonstrates our office's commitment to prosecuting offenses involving the unauthorized accessing of trade secret information. We will continue to vigilantly enforce intellectual property offenses, particularly when such offenses involve the possible transmittal of sensitive trade secret information outside the United States," Weiss said in a statement.

## **WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL EDITORIALS**

### **Primaries May Be Over, But The Same Problems Remain (WILNJ)**

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

The political world is awash in explanations today. The winners of yesterday's primary elections are busy proclaiming their march to victory, while the losers spin away the results. Pundits, likewise, are tied up offering views on what it all "means."

Whatever the results, the problems that faced each of the states with a June 8 primary and the problems that face the country as a whole are still there, the day after the vote.

The incumbents who survived challenges still don't have a clue about how to solve the financial crisis or create jobs. And the self-proclaimed upstarts, such as the tea party-backed candidates, are still giving us the same slogans: smaller government and lower taxes. But slogans aren't solutions.

For example, incumbents and challengers alike called for cutting waste and reducing spending. But whose waste and what spending?

Voters in California told pollsters they are more worried about their state's financial problems than any of the national issues. They want the budget brought into line. But how? Some candidates called for abolishing the Internal Revenue Code. Fair enough, but what would it be replaced with?

Ronald Reagan, when he was campaigning, used to joke that people scoffed at him for saying the answers were simple. He replied that they are simple; they just aren't easy.

As yesterday's winners move to the November elections, they should keep that in mind.

### **Police Shouldn't Have Kept Rape Incident From Public (WILNJ)**

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Why did the New Castle County police fail to notify the public about a rapist on the loose?

According to police reports, two women were raped after they were abducted while sitting in their cars in public places during daylight. There was no reason for the women to be especially wary as they went about their business. Both crimes occurred near Stanton and police are going on the theory the rapist in both incidents is the same man.

Certainly, police cannot prevent every crime, but the police failed to alert the public after the first incident occurred last Wednesday morning.

If an alarm had been sounded by the police, perhaps the second victim, who was kidnapped and raped Saturday morning, may have had the opportunity to take extra precautions.

There are times when it is logical, prudent and strategic for police to delay releasing information about a crime. Sometimes police officials do not want to panic the public with incomplete information or vague reports of an unconfirmed crime. At other times, temporarily delaying information to protect someone who is actually in harm's way makes sense. But news about the kidnap and rape of a woman in the parking lot of a medical facility around noon on a Wednesday is not something that should be hidden.



The police did not have to release all of the details. They did not have to tip their investigation or make public any leads. However, they should have alerted the public so it could take action.

### **Deteriorating Houses In Parks Give New Castle County A Black Eye (WILNJ)**

By Ron Williams, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

One of the prettier New Castle County parks is just outside Newport off Maryland Avenue. Banning Park is an expansive, wide-open space with all the needed amenities of a good park, from tennis courts to barbecue grills.

The trees are fully mature and thick with foliage this time of year.

But just to the left of the entrance, next to the Daniel Frawley Soccer Field, is a striking eyesore that would make the uninformed think New Castle County's parks department is made up of a gang of apathetic lazybones.

A once-beautiful, two-story Georgian-style brick home -- whose most noticeable attributes today are the huge plywood rectangles covering the busted-out windows -- is rotting away at its core. The backyard, which sits next to the park's maintenance yard, is full of brush and littered with junk. Not the kind of thing county residents are likely to put on a county park tour with their out-of-state friends.

The house was once home to the Special Services Division, which runs the parks, and then various charitable organizations until maintenance began to fall off. And this is not the only county-owned house on park property that's falling apart. County Council President Paul Clark estimates there are about 12 of them in various stages of disrepair.

Until County Executive Chris Coons took office some six years ago, the county was renting out the homes at reasonable rates to county employees and cops. But Coons decided it was not financially prudent for the county to be in the house rental business and pulled the plug on renewing the leases.

That led to the falloff in maintenance and upkeep of the county's housing.

Now the county finds itself in a Catch-22 situation, in that renovating the homes and keeping them maintained -- including the farmhouse at Glasgow Park -- is cost-prohibitive. And renting them out to private individuals to do the repairs doesn't work because banks don't want to lend home repair money to people who don't own the property.

Before some of New Castle County's low-lifes start deciding these buildings make good arson material, Clark would like to see the county tap some cheap bond money to make the needed repairs around the county.

Renting them out to say, rookie police officers who are just starting a family, would be a good way to provide some on-site security and keep the stately old homes from deteriorating further. A parked patrol car in the driveway would at least play some role in keeping vagrants and troublemakers out of the parks.

As Clark, a former member of the Board of Adjustment, points out, most private citizens couldn't get away with throwing some plywood up on the windows of a vacant house without facing a zoning violation.

Fixing these places up and bringing in some revenue is at least worthy of review and a financial assessment of how much bond money and expense would be required.

Another possible solution might be a resident curatorship program for the homes. That approach is already under way.

Republicans are filling it up



It's still a work in progress, but Republican state party Chairman Tom Ross is moving along smartly toward his goal of putting a candidate in every open slot for the state legislature and county councils, even New Castle County Council, which in recent years have been ignored by the Republicans. And with the nearly 2-1 D's registration figures in the county, who can blame them?

But this is a different kind of political year, with Republicans smelling discontent with the incumbent Democrats.

The Republicans have even filled candidacies in southern New Castle County, a bastion of Democrats, and in highly Democratic legislative districts like Sen. Nancy Cook's in Kent County.

It's refreshing to see the Rs at least trying to make these races competitive. And who knows? Maybe they'll even win some.

Now, about that attorney general's opening.

Looking from the inside out

A realistic and forward-looking group of firefighters known as the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association has a new website to promote favorable news items about the fire service, and also the unfavorable side.

The latest edition of the Delaware Fire Service News has an item about the new program, which can be found at [www.cvvfa.org](http://www.cvvfa.org).

The CVVFA said "reckless and inappropriate conduct by a small minority of the nation's fire service is eroding the high moral ground occupied by firefighters," its white paper said.

Increased vigilance and personal responsibility are the goals of the CVVFA, a century-old group dedicated to enhancing communication and continuing education among the fire service.

## **BIDEN IN THE NEWS**

### **Biden Praises Kenya Leaders For Political Cooperation (NYT)**

By Jeffrey Gettleman

[New York Times](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya - Vice President Joseph R. **Biden** Jr. stood at a lectern in Kenya's capital on Tuesday afternoon with the sun peeking out behind the clouds and a huge grin spreading across his face.

It was not Nairobi's perfect climate nor the new road construction nor this city's verdant parks that impressed him. It was that Kenya's president, Mwai Kibaki, and the prime minister, Raila Odinga, actually seemed to be on the same page.

"Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister, I think we've had some very productive discussions today, covering many interests," Mr. **Biden** said after meeting top Kenyan officials. "But I must tell you, I was truly impressed by the mutual cooperation between you and the prime minister and your commitment - your mutual commitment - to reform."

Kenya is still stumbling out of the disaster of late 2007 and early 2008, when a disputed election split the country along ethnic lines and set off widespread bloodshed. The feuding leaders were Mr. Kibaki and Mr. Odinga.

Mr. **Biden** looked quite at ease standing between them on Tuesday. He is the highest-ranking American official to visit Kenya in years. Though Kenyans feel a special bond to President Obama,



whose father was Kenyan, the pundits and public here have been speculating for weeks about what message Mr. **Biden** might bring.

So far, his message seems positive.

Mr. **Biden** talked briefly about the constitutional and judicial reforms that Kenya is trying to enact and said meeting Kenya's leaders made him "more optimistic than I have been about the prospects of this reform occurring."

"I can tell you, when these reforms take place, you will find a completely different atmosphere about investment in this country," he said. "Americans want to do business here, they want to travel here, and with the right climate, they will come."

Mr. **Biden** made a stop in Kenya on his way to South Africa, where he will attend the opening of the World Cup at the end of the week.

### **Biden Visit Seeks Better Kenya Ties (WSJ)**

By Sarah Childress

[Wall Street Journal](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya-U.S. Vice President Joe **Biden** held out the potential for more investment in Kenya, a critical ally whose help has been sought stabilizing a troubled East African region that includes neighboring Somalia.

The vice president's remarks Tuesday during a brief trip to the region represent a softening of U.S. criticism. American officials have chided Kenya in the past for what has been perceived as a halting anticorruption drive and the slow pace of promised constitutional change. Washington has imposed a travel ban on Kenya's attorney general, who is seen as blocking changes.

During his visit, Mr. **Biden** offered more carrot than stick, vowing more business and a robust partnership between the two countries. "As Kenya moves forward so too will the United States in strengthening our relationships with you, both economically and politically," he said, adding that he was "more optimistic than I have been" that political changes would take place.

Washington is relying on help from East African allies in dealing with nearby Somalia, which has become a magnet for al Qaeda-backed militants. U.S. officials say al Shabaab, a militant group allied with al Qaeda, is attempting to establish a base for a broader terror network. On Saturday, two U.S. citizens were arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and charged with planning to fly to Somalia to fight with al Shabaab in the hopes of killing Americans.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said he had asked the U.S. to take more of a lead in helping stabilize the region. "We have asked the U.S. government to provide leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilize Somalia," the president said, though he didn't provide details. The international community, including the U.S., has invested heavily in the current Somali government, believed to be the best hope for stability there.

Kenya has helped train some Somali troops and has tried several Somali pirates arrested in international waters. Mr. **Biden** said the U.S. would continue to support Kenya's efforts in their "shared challenges" in the region. He plans to deliver a speech Wednesday elaborating on the countries' ties before traveling to South Africa to attend the opening of the World Cup.

The U.S. relationship with Kenya has been contentious at times. Since ethnic violence erupted after the 2007 elections, Kenya has come under pressure to make changes that would defuse tensions. Among the changes the U.S. says are needed: eliminating corruption in the police force, improving



accountability in the justice system and creating a new constitution that offers more checks on executive power.

Kenya's president has replaced the police commissioner, and a new draft constitution will be ready for a national referendum in August.

Still, deep fissures remain within the Kenyan government following the violence-marred elections in 2007. More than 1,300 people were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in the clashes, which sprang up along tribal lines. A power-sharing deal was cobbled together to end the violence, but the union is awkward at best and at times acrimonious.

On Tuesday, Mr. **Biden** met with both President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga. They gathered with other top U.S. and Kenyan officials around a large wooden table at Kenya's white-pillared presidential palace. Before the discussion began, Mr. **Biden** quipped: "As I told my staff, everything is settled." The joke drew laughs from around the table.

Write to Sarah Childress at [sarah.childress@wsj.com](mailto:sarah.childress@wsj.com)

### **Kenya Asks US To Lead Int'l Effort In Somalia (WP/AP)**

By Jason Straziuso, The Associated Press

[Washington Post](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya -- Kenya's president asked the United States on Tuesday to lead a greater international effort to stabilize neighboring Somalia, while visiting U.S. Vice President Joe **Biden** said the U.S. is committed to helping Kenya see regional stability.

The request that the U.S. do more to combat rising militancy in Somalia comes three days after the arrests of two New Jersey men attempting to fly there. The two are charged with conspiring to kill, maim and kidnap persons outside the U.S. by joining al-Shabab, a Somali militant group designated by the U.S. in 2008 as a terrorist organization.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said Somalia is a high priority for both the U.S. and Kenya. The country hasn't had an effective central government in 19 years, a situation that has allowed militancy and piracy to flourish.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the U.S. government to provide leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilize Somalia," Kibaki said.

**Biden** said the U.S. recognizes that Kenya's long-term stability and development is tied to regional stability.

"I assured the president and the prime minister the United States supports Kenya's efforts to secure the border in the face of very real threats from those who wish to spread chaos through despair and violence," **Biden** said during a joint news conference at Kibaki's Nairobi residence.

**Biden** is in the East African nation, the birthplace of President Barack Obama's father, to press for political reforms in the country and discuss the situation in Somalia and Sudan.

If Kenya strengthens its rule of law, the country will open the door to greater U.S. aid and investment, **Biden** said, encouraging Kenya to continue with reforms initiated after the country's postelection violence. More than 1,000 people were killed after the December 2007 poll.

"Americans want to do business here, they want to travel here, and with the right climate, they will come," **Biden** said.

While her husband was at Nairobi's State House, Jill **Biden**, their daughter Ashley, 29, and granddaughter Maisy, 9, visited Kibera, the largest slum in the country.



There they heard testimonials from two women living with HIV and visited a girl who is part of a group of adolescents who have been trained with skills to enable them earn an income and cope with life in the rough slum.

The HIV-positive women and girls are beneficiaries of U.S.-funded organizations. Moving from one venue to another, Jill **Biden** trudged in ankle-high mud through a maze of alleyways. Her 20-minute walk brought business to a standstill.

The vice president and his wife later laid a wreath at a memorial for the 1998 bombing against the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. That bombing and a simultaneous one against the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Tanzania killed 224 people.

On Wednesday, the vice president is scheduled to give what he said would be a major speech on Kenya. The **Bidens** are also scheduled to visit Nairobi National Park to view wildlife before traveling to South Africa for the opening of football's World Cup later in the week.

**Biden** began his three-African nation tour on Monday in Egypt where he met with that country's leader, Hosni Mubarak, and discussed how their two countries and other allies can find ways to address the humanitarian, economic, security and political situation in Gaza.

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Associated Press writer Tom Odula in Nairobi, Kenya contributed to this report.

### **Biden In Push To Stabilise Volatile E. Africa (AFP)**

By Jean-Marc Mojon

[AFP](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI - US Vice President Joe **Biden** was to meet southern Sudan's leader in Nairobi Wednesday and also focus on troubled Somalia after discussing the fate of the volatile region with Kenyan leaders.

On the second leg of his trip to Africa, **Biden** highlighted Kenya's key role in stabilising a region that is threatened by chaos in Somalia and could see further upheaval if southern Sudan chooses independence in January.

"We recognise that Kenya's long term stability and development are tied to regional security and development, and the United States is committed to work with Kenya to achieve both those objectives," he said Tuesday, when he met Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

A dispute between the two Kenyan leaders following the 2007 presidential election triggered a wave of violence that left some 1,500 people dead and rattled a nation long seen as a beacon of stability in the region.

In recent months, US officials had been openly critical of Kenya's attempts to implement the political reforms demanded by the international community but **Biden** on Tuesday took heart in recent developments.

The coalition formed in 2008 by the formerly feuding Kenyan leaders had looked on the brink of collapse earlier this year but the uneasy partners eventually agreed on a draft constitution.

The document, a key demand of the United States and other international players who sponsored Kenya's power-sharing deal, is to be submitted to a referendum in early August.

**Biden** said he was "truly impressed by the mutual cooperation" between Odinga and Kibaki and added that a new constitution would appease foreign concerns over Kenya's political climate and stimulate a fresh wave of investments.



The vice president was expected to expand further on his country's reinvigorated partnership with Kenya during a keynote speech on Wednesday.

He was also scheduled to hold talks with southern Sudan's leader, Salva Kiir, who is expected to steer his semi-autonomous region towards a referendum on self-determination in January 2011.

The referendum is part of the 2005 peace deal that ended a two-decade civil war between the north and south of Africa's largest country.

A widely-predicted "yes" vote by the oil-rich south -- which has borders with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia -- would have wide-ranging effects on the region.

**Biden** was also scheduled to hold a special meeting Wednesday on Somalia, where moderate Islamist President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has been mustering support for an offensive against an Islamist insurgency.

Washington has repeatedly voiced concerns that Somalia, two thirds of which is controlled by the insurgents, was becoming a new haven for Al Qaeda operatives.

Kibaki for his part reiterated his concerns over the threat posed to Kenya's border by Somalia's Islamist rebels and to the impact of growing Somali piracy.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the US government to provide the leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilise Somalia," he said.

### **Biden Praises Kenya, Discusses E.Africa Stability (AFP)**

By Jean-marc Mojon

[AFP](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI (AFP) - US Vice President Joe **Biden** praised Kenya's progress on internal reforms Tuesday and discussed means of stabilising the region, amid concerns over the situation in neighbouring Sudan and Somalia.

Washington has applied unprecedented pressure on its top regional ally Kenya to overcome its political disputes and implement a reform agenda decided in the aftermath of post-election chaos more than two years ago.

Most recent public comments by US officials had been openly critical of the Kenyan government's performance in tackling the long list of reforms it agreed to but **Biden's** assessment was more positive.

"Thank you ... for making me more optimistic than I had been about the prospect of this reform occurring," **Biden** said after meeting Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and other cabinet members.

The coalition formed in 2008 by the formerly feuding Kenyan leaders had looked on the brink of collapse earlier this year but the uneasy partners eventually agreed on a draft constitution.

The document, a key demand of the United States and other international players who sponsored Kenya's power-sharing deal, is to be submitted to a referendum in early August.

**Biden** said he was "truly impressed by the mutual cooperation" between Odinga and Kibaki and added that a new constitution would appease foreign concerns over Kenya's political climate and stimulate a fresh wave of investments.

"Putting in place a new constitution and strengthening your democratic institutions and rule of law will further open the door to major US development programmes" and investment from US corporations, he said.



**Biden**, who said that "Kenya's best days are yet to come", predicted that fresh US investment in Kenya would also boost confidence from other parts of the world.

The vice president, whose tour of Africa started in Egypt and will also take him to South Africa, also said he was in Nairobi to discuss the eastern African region's stability.

"We recognise that Kenya's long term stability and development are tied to regional security and development, and the United States is committed to work with Kenya to achieve both those objectives," he said.

**Biden** was expected to expand on his government's strategic partnership with Kenya during a keynote speech on Wednesday.

He was also scheduled to meet Salva Kiir, the president of Sudan's semi-autonomous south, which is due to hold a referendum on self-determination in January 2011.

A widely-predicted decision by the southern oil-rich half of Sudan to acquire independence would have wide-ranging effects on the region.

**Biden** was scheduled to hold a special meeting Wednesday dedicated to the situation in Somalia, where moderate Islamist President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has been mustering support for a major offensive against an Islamist insurgency.

Washington has repeatedly voiced concerns that one of Kenya's other troubled neighbours, Somalia, two thirds of which is controlled by the insurgents, was becoming a new haven for Al Qaeda operatives.

Kibaki for his part reiterated his concerns over the threat posed to Kenya's border by Somalia's Islamist rebels and to the impact of growing Somali piracy.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the US government to provide the leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilise Somalia," he said.

## **U.S. To Boost Kenya Investment After New Constitution (Update1) (BLOOM)**

By Sarah McGregor

[Bloomberg News](#), June 9, 2010

June 8 (Bloomberg) -- The passage of a new constitution in Kenya as well as the strengthening of democratic institutions will result in increased U.S. investment in the East African country, Vice President Joe **Biden** said.

"Americans want to do business here," **Biden** told reporters today in the capital, Nairobi. "With reforms this will come." He made the comments after talks with President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who are partners in Kenya's coalition government.

Kenyans will vote on Aug. 4 for a new constitution aimed at limiting presidential powers and narrowing ethnic divisions that were at the heart of post-election violence in 2008. A new constitution is the central element of a power-sharing accord that ended clashes in which an estimated 1,500 people died following the disputed December 2007 vote. The U.S. has backed the draft document, which it says will improve the prospects for democratic stability in Kenya.

Under the 2008 power-sharing agreement, Kibaki, an ethnic Kikuyu, secured a second five-year term as president and his political opponent, Odinga, of the Luo people, was installed in the newly created post of prime minister. The accord, brokered by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, committed the government to write a new constitution, improve courts and the police, and bring the worst perpetrators of the violence to justice.

Crimes Against Humanity



The Hague-based International Criminal Court will probably present cases against six Kenyans by the end of this year, following probes into crimes against humanity related to the post-election violence, ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said on May 12. Moreno-Ocampo began his investigation into the clashes after Kenya, East Africa's biggest economy, failed several times to create its own special tribunal last year.

"Putting in place a new constitution and strengthening your democratic institutions and rule of law will further open the door to major American development programs such as the Millennium Challenge Account and will, I predict, bring about reinvestment by American corporations and international organizations in Kenya that can provide millions of dollars in assistance and grants," **Biden** said.

Kenya's political leaders have promised a new charter for more than two decades to replace a constitution that dates back to the country's independence from Britain in 1963.

#### Referendum

Kenyan lawmakers agreed on the draft constitution on April 1. The text must be approved in a referendum by a majority of Kenyan voters in order for it to become law.

About 57 percent of registered voters will approve the draft on Aug. 4, while 20 percent will reject it, according a survey of 6,017 people conducted by the Nairobi-based polling company Synovate published on June 4. The rest are undecided or won't vote, Synovate said. The margin of error was 1.6 percentage points, it said.

Supporters and opponents of the draft constitution have been trying to sway public opinion by holding public rallies. Both Kibaki and Odinga publicly back the draft text that will be put to voters in the August referendum.

In an interview with state-run Kenya Broadcasting Corp. on June 1, President Barack Obama urged Kenyans to turn out in large numbers for the referendum.

"I'm openly supporting the process," Obama said. "I'm not openly supporting the result." Obama's late father was a Kenyan from the Luo ethnic group.

In Kenya until June 10, **Biden** is also scheduled to deliver a speech on Kenya-U.S. relations, meet with Southern Sudanese President Salva Kiir and speak with the Somali diaspora about that country's peace process.

### **Obama To Meet Abbas As Gaza Fallout Mounts (AFP)**

By Stephen Collinson

[AFP](#), June 9, 2010

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas will ask President Barack Obama Wednesday for "bold decisions" on the Middle East but US-led peace moves face a torrid climate after Israel's Gaza flotilla raid.

Obama will welcome Abbas to the White House seeking to ensure regional fury over the May 31 Israeli commando strike does not doom indirect Israel-Palestinian talks that took months for Washington to organize.

He will also discuss American efforts to break through a "status-quo" on the blockaded Gaza Strip, which his administration describes as "untenable" following the deadly Israeli maritime raid, which killed nine Turks.

"The president looks forward to receiving president Abbas to review progress in the proximity talks and discuss our common efforts to achieve Middle East peace," said Tommy Vietor, a White House spokesman.



Obama also wants to "reinforce our strong support for the Palestinian Authority and its state-building effort, and review ideas for a long-term strategy towards Gaza."

Officials would not discuss possible areas of progress during the visit, which comes a week after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled his own White House trip to deal with the fallout from the Gaza crisis.

But Obama, still working through the recriminations over the raid, fierce international condemnation of Israel and his own previously tense relations with Netanyahu's government, has little obvious room for maneuver.

Abbas will arrive in the United States from Turkey, a US ally increasingly at odds with Washington over Middle East politics and Iran's nuclear program.

Ankara has also furiously condemned the Gaza flotilla raid.

The Palestinian leader last week set a clear rhetorical framework for his long-awaited summit with the US president.

"My message to Obama during our meeting in Washington next week will be that we need bold decisions to change the face of the region," Abbas said at an investment conference in the West Bank.

It remains unclear exactly what Obama can offer Abbas, other than a public embrace, a vow not to give up navigating the treacherous diplomatic thicket of the Middle East and some hope of future humanitarian gestures to Gaza.

"What Obama says in private to Abbas may be as important as what he says in public," said Michele Dunne, a former State Department official now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

That private message may include Obama's assurances to stay the course, continue pressing Netanyahu and seek a commitment from the Israelis to enter direct talks after indirect, proximity consultations.

In public at least, Washington and the Abbas government are offering different interpretations on the current state of proximity talks with Israel brokered by US Middle East envoy George Mitchell.

Abbas has already suggested the talks are encountering "difficulties" and "lots of obstacles."

Washington has said the dialogue is "constructive" and "substantive," as it insists the talks must not be derailed by fallout from the Gaza crisis.

Vice President Joe **Biden** said in Egypt on Monday that Washington was looking for new ways to work on the "humanitarian, economic, security and political aspects of the situation in Gaza."

But the global controversy over what kind of inquiry should examine the showdown -- be it Israeli, international or a mixture of both -- is providing another headache for Obama's Middle East team.

Uncertainty also clouds the state of the Obama administration's relationship with the Israeli government.

Netanyahu's visit last week was intended as an attempt to move on from the highly unusual public disagreements, when the Israeli leader last called at the White House visit in late March.

He was denied a photo-op and the normal trappings of a foreign leader's visit during that appearance, amid a public spat over Israeli settlement building.

Despite public attempts to smooth over the row, and a US refusal to so far explicitly condemn Israel's actions on the flotilla, the state of relations between the two governments remains unclear.

"I think there are a lot of questions. I don't think the dispute that was opened by the previous visit has completely healed," Dunne said.

## **Flotilla Clash Still Making Waves In Middle East Politics (CNN)**



[CNN](#), June 9, 2010

(CNN) -- The political repercussions of Israel's raid of boats carrying aid to Gaza last week continued to ripple across the Middle East and showed no signs of slowing Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters outside an Asian security summit in Istanbul, Turkey, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the killing of nine Turkish activists by Israeli naval commandos aboard one vessel in the flotilla "will change many issues in the world" and marked the "final countdown" for Israel's existence.

"It shows that it has no room in the region, and no one is ready to live alongside it," he told reporters.

His comments came as more aid ships, some backed by regional powers, prepared to set sail.

Israel has said its naval blockade is in place to stop weaponry from reaching militants in Gaza intent on attacking Israel. But critics say the three-year blockade -- imposed after Hamas took over Gaza -- has deepened poverty in the Palestinian territory.

According to the United Nations, 80 percent of Gaza's population depends on food aid.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Monday that the country's Red Crescent Society would also try to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza by sending food and medical supplies to the besieged Palestinian territory, according to Iranian media. Red Crescent official Abdul Rauf Adibzadeh told Iranian media one shipment of relief goods would arrive in Gaza via Egypt by the end of the week.

Separately, a "Jewish boat" is planning to try to reach Gaza, two pro-Palestinian European Jewish groups announced Monday.

"Our purpose is to call an end to the siege of Gaza, to this illegal collective punishment of the whole civilian population," Edith Lutz said on behalf of European Jews for a Just Peace in the Near East, and Jews for Justice for Palestinians.

Meanwhile, thousands of tons of international aid, meant for Gaza but seized by Israel at sea, are languishing in an army base close to Tel Aviv. Wheel chairs and children's toys are among the goods.

Israel has screened the aid for banned materials, and is offering to transport the rest to Gaza by land.

But Hamas, the militant group which runs the territory, is refusing to take delivery in protest.

Israeli commandos intercepted the first convoy at sea May 31 and stormed the largest vessel, the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara.

On Saturday the Israeli military seized the MV Rachel Corrie, another aid ship, as it neared the Gaza coast.

The ships were carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, organizers said.

U.S. Vice President Joe **Biden** said Monday that the present situation "is unsustainable for all sides," and that the Israelis and Palestinians needed to "move to direct negotiations as soon as possible that will result in an end to the occupation that began in 1967, and to a two-state solution to the conflict with Israel, and a Palestinian state living in peace and security."

The U.N. Security Council has called for an inquiry into the flotilla raid, and the U.N. Human Rights Council has condemned the assault and voted to launch an investigation.

Israeli officials have defended the legality of the raid, criticizing those aboard the Mavi Marmara for attacking the boarding party and insisting that they can handle the investigation themselves.

On Monday the Israeli military's chief of general staff has appointed a reserve general to lead "a team of experts" to examine Israel's interception of a flotilla bound for Gaza last week in order to "establish lessons from the event," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.



## **Anxious Gazans Trying To Leave Blockaded Territory (AP)**

By Karin Laub

[Associated Press](#), June 9, 2010

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - A Palestinian who had to delay graduate school in Malaysia and an elderly man forced to put off eye surgery in Egypt are among thousands anxiously trying to get out of Gaza now that the blockaded territory's gateway to the world has opened just a little.

A Hamas-run passenger terminal on the Gaza side of the border was packed on Tuesday with hundreds of Gazans trying to get clearance just to approach the crossing into Egypt. It was a chaotic scene, with stressed passengers arguing with overwhelmed Hamas border officials.

"Move back!" a Hamas official barked at the crowd from a hand-held microphone. Nearby, a black-clad policeman raised his club threateningly to cut short an argument with a middle-aged man.

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Many of Gaza's 1.5 million people have been forced to put their lives on hold during the three years the territory's borders were sealed by Israel and Egypt, following the violent takeover by the Islamic militant Hamas.

Now, following last week's deadly Israeli raid on a blockade-busting flotilla, there is a glimmer of hope the darkest days may be over. In the wake of the assault that killed nine pro-Palestinian activists, world leaders have demanded the embargo be lifted or loosened.

Egypt's promise to keep the Rafah crossing open every day, rather than just sporadically, marks the first tangible improvement.

But even that gesture comes with many strings attached.

Only those with foreign passports or residency, or people requiring medical treatment or accepted at foreign universities are eligible to cross into Egypt. It's the same restricted group as in the past, though the steady opening of the terminal over the past week has helped reduce a backlog of thousands.

For some in the crowd on Tuesday, it was the second or third attempt in as many days to get out, with much at stake.

Hani Ihlayyel has been stuck in Gaza since returning for a summer visit in 2006 after earning a degree in computer engineering from a college in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

His plan was to return to Malaysia for graduate school, but instead the blockade forced him to remain in Gaza, where he said he wasted four years with odd jobs, including buying and selling computers. Gaza has several colleges and universities, but many areas of study, like medicine and advanced computer technology, are not available.

Ihlayyel tried several times to leave via Rafah in the past, but could never get all the necessary documents together, including an Egyptian security clearance and a spot on the Hamas-controlled waiting list. With Egypt opening Rafah only a few days every month or so, that list swelled to more than 8,000 by the end of May.

By Tuesday, just over 3,000 Gazans had crossed into Egypt, and Ihlayyel felt he might have a chance. He arrived at the Gaza terminal at 6:30 a.m. local time and waited for his name to be called to receive a ticket for a seat on a bus taking him to the border crossing.

Three hours later, a Hamas official announced over a loudspeaker that no more tickets would be issued for Tuesday because four buses had already crossed and no more would be accepted by Egypt. Those in the terminal, Ihlayyel among them, were now waiting for tickets to cross Wednesday.



As the oldest of six brothers, Ihlayyel said he feels pressure to succeed and that his future depends on getting out of Gaza. He said his nerves are frayed because the stakes are so high and so much can go wrong.

"I am afraid of Hamas, of Egypt, of everything," he said, clutching a plastic envelope with his travel documents. "I'm scared, actually."

Najwa Asmar and her three children failed to cross Tuesday, their second attempt in two days, but were promised they would get on the first bus Wednesday.

"Of course, I'm disappointed. For the last three days, we didn't get any sleep or rest," Asmar said as her teenage son Mohammed loaded their suitcase onto the roof of a taxi for the 45-minute drive back to Gaza City. Asmar hopes to spend the summer with Egyptian relatives she hasn't seen for years.

Nearby, 77-year-old Adnan Mohanna stood in the sun, waiting for word from Egypt that he was cleared to travel.

Hamas border officials had warned him that a local doctor's note saying he required eye surgery wasn't enough to get him across the border. His Egyptian eye surgeon, who operated on him eight years ago, would have to send word to the Egyptian authorities, he was told.

Mohanna and the others were visibly frustrated, but just shrugged when asked whom they blamed for their predicament, apparently fearful a critical word might jinx their chances of getting out of Gaza.

An Egyptian border official said about 500 Gazans, or seven busloads, are to be allowed to leave every day. Senior Hamas officials are banned from traveling, according to Egyptian officials.

Egypt has cooperated with Israel in enforcing the blockade, in part because it has been fighting homegrown Islamic radicals since the 1990s and feared Hamas' militancy could spill into Egyptian territory. However, Egypt's role in maintaining the blockade has hurt its standing in the Muslim and Arab world.

In recent days, Egypt has tried to shift responsibility for the blockade to Israel. Egypt's renewed promise on Monday to keep the Rafah terminal open came as Vice President Joe **Biden** met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and called for new ways of dealing with Gaza.

On Tuesday, Israel rebuffed calls led by Turkey for an international inquiry into what caused last week's deadly raid, saying it would conduct its own investigation.

Israel staunchly opposes a complete opening of the Gaza border, fearing that would strengthen Hamas, branded a terror group by the West, and allow the Islamic militants to bring in weapons, including missiles that could hit all over Israel.

However, Israel has suggested it is willing to expand the list of several dozen basic humanitarian items it has permitted into Gaza since 2007, while continuing to ban all exports.

Some in Gaza fear that in the end the international community, led by the U.S., will settle for only cosmetic adjustments.

Iyyad Saraj, a psychiatrist and leading figure among Gaza's independents, said partial solutions, such as a proposal by France to inspect aid ships before they reach Gaza, will only prolong Israeli control of Gaza's gates.

"If there is any kind of courage and leadership and moral standing, now is the moment to end the siege," he said.

## **Delaware Candidate And Sen. Reid Are Fast Friends (HILL)**

By Sean J. Miller

[The Hill](#), June 9, 2010



Two months ago last week, Delaware Senate candidate Chris Coons (D) spoke to the Senate Democratic Conference during its weekly lunch.

"I gave about a 10-minute speech, got a standing ovation," Coons told The Ballot Box.

Appreciation wasn't the only thing he took away from the meeting.

"I've so far received about \$140,000 [in campaign contributions] from 30 sitting senators, which is a pretty substantial response," Coons said. "And a number of them have committed to hosting events for me."

To Coons's surprise, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was one of the senators who offered to host a fundraiser. "He called and he offered," Coons said. "We've got a date and a place and everything."

Coons said he couldn't go into the details until Reid's office made the official announcement. But he sounded upbeat about their growing friendship. "He and I have developed a really great relationship. I've been very pleasantly surprised," he said. "I didn't know him before this."

"And we have these fairly long personal talks and he's a very straight-up, engaging guy who's very concerned about my family. We talked about values, about 'How do you manage it?' and balancing things."

Coons didn't expect to find the majority leader so personable, he said. "He's a very gentle, gracious person."

Several people told Coons that Reid has been talking him up during fundraising events for his own reelection campaign.

"I've been very pleasantly surprised to hear that from folks in New York and Chicago, as well as here several times," Coons said. "He's taken a real personal interest in the race."

Coons, the New Castle County executive, is expected to face Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.) in the general election. He's been trailing in some recent polls but says his campaign operation is gearing up thanks to some help from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC).

Coming off a "cold start," Coons said the DSCC lent him staff to get his campaign up and running.

Still, he maintains he's managing his own race.

"They're very clear about, 'This is your race to win, we're here as a resource, we want to help you with strategic advice,'" Coons said. "But they are not telling me how to run or what positions to take."

From Vice President Joe **Biden** - Delaware's most famous Democrat - Coons said he'd received a "general offer of support and encouragement."

Reid's office did not respond to a request for comment.

## **Down With Celebrity Graduation Speakers! Up With Teachers! (WP)**

By Jay Mathews

[Washington Post](#), June 9, 2010

I am going to ignore veteran journalist Helen Thomas's comments about Israel and Palestine that led to her withdrawing as graduation speaker at Walt Whitman High, the nearest public high school to my home in Bethesda, Md. I am going to focus instead on a longstanding gripe of mine---revived by the Thomas controversy---and a solution that just occurred to me.

I don't like the competition among colleges and high schools to get big names to speak at grad night. The emphasis is always on how famous the person is. If your high school gets Joe **Biden**, you are feeling good until the rival high school gets Barack Obama. Is that oneupsmanship in tune with the values we want our children to learn?



I want to say for the record that my problem with the celebrity speaker game has nothing to do with the fact that I was disinvented as a graduation speaker by one high school a few years ago when one of its rivals snared Hillary Clinton. I had a happy childhood, am loved by my wife and am above such pettiness.

But it seems worth noting that the outsiders chosen to speak to the graduating class, including me (I have done it twice), tend to be bad at it. They don't know the school well. They have little clue about what the graduating seniors are interested in. Their themes are the usual march-toward-your-future pap. The thunderous applause they receive when they are done is usually motivated by relief that that part of the program is over and party time awaits.

Here is my idea: Ban celebrity speakers, even minor celebrities, from high school graduation. (This would also be good advice for colleges, but they are simply too full of themselves to listen.) Who should speak instead?

Those two times I spoke to a graduating class, I used a trick I learned from a clever politician I once saw in action at a student gathering. He has made some calls, or had his staff make some calls, asking about humorous incidents at school that year. Who had embarrassed himself in the fundraiser dunk tank? Which couples got locked in the gym after that dance? How had the baseball team lost its equipment on that road trip?

It was fairly innocent stuff which he fashioned into a few jokes that killed. The graduating class was unaccustomed to adults even caring about its pranks and pratfalls. To hear a stranger talking about such stuff was charming and engaging. Since I am a reporter, it wasn't hard for me to gather similar tidbits before I spoke. They went over well.

Sadly, the more important and famous the outside speaker, the less likely he or she will bother with such preparations. But there is one way to make sure an adult speaker can connect with the class at its level.

Don't ask the local state senator, or the school board chair, or the principal's cousin who had a top ten single in the 1980s to speak. Ask a teacher.

I don't mean any teacher. Every school has a significant number of educators who love students, who are skilled classroom entertainers and who know what the graduating class is talking about. Occasionally a school will pick someone like that if the person is about to retire, but why wait until they are on their way out? Why not get them in their prime?

I realize some principals cringe, and with good reason, at the idea of some of their more articulate teachers being given fifteen minutes to address a hall full of parents and community leaders. The best teachers often can't be tamed, or fired. It is difficult to predict what they will say.

But graduation speeches should be exciting. Everyone involved will have the whole summer to get over, or forget, whatever is said. Let's make it a rule that only teachers picked by the students can address the graduates, and ban boredom from such events forever.

I confess that the local school that bounced me as speaker found that it did not have enough time to get a really big name, and so went with a teacher. Maybe it was out of desperation, but I am told the guy did a wonderful job, one of the best graduation speeches anyone had ever heard.

So take that Secretary Clinton, and all your famous friends. A great teacher with a point of view has it all over you as the person to sum up a high school class. And you can pretty much count on the teacher to stay away from foreign policy issues, which may be just as well.



# VICE PRESIDENTIAL *News Clips*

PRODUCED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT AND STAFF

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## WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL STORIES

### Curbside Recycling Pickups Now Delaware Law (WILNJ)

By Jeff Montgomery, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Delaware will phase in a universal curbside recycling mandate starting next year under a landmark measure signed Tuesday by Gov. Jack Markell.

The law also spells the end of the state's long-maligned 5-cent beverage bottle deposit law. A 4-cent per bottle, non-refundable fee will take its place on Dec. 1, then expire in 2014, with proceeds used to support initial recycling work.



Republican critics have alleged that the new fee is a camouflaged tax that could face a court challenge.

Under the new law, all waste haulers statewide must begin offering every-other-week curbside recycling pickups by Sept. 15, 2011 as part of their regular services, starting with single family homes, restaurants and bars. Service must expand to multi-family dwellings by January 1, 2013, and remaining businesses by Jan. 1, 2014.

Recycling will remain voluntary for state residents, although state officials plan to step up public education programs and efforts to promote the environmental and economic benefits of not wasting.

"Recycling is going to help us save money, improve our environment and create new jobs," Markell said during a brief ceremony near the slopes of Cherry Island Landfill in east Wilmington, Delaware's busiest waste disposal site.

The program, Markell added, will "restrain the cost of waste, it will reduce burdens on businesses and it will significantly increase recycling."

Along with the curbside recycling mandate, the law set a 50 percent municipal waste recycling goal to be reached by Jan. 1, 2015, and a 60 percent target for Jan. 1, 2020 -- higher than surrounding states and double the highest estimates of the state's current rate.

Proceeds from the new 4-cent bottle fee will be earmarked for grants, loans and other startup subsidies to offset equipment costs. Lawmakers capped total collections from the recycling fee at \$22 million, potentially forcing its cutoff before 2014.

Residents can continue to return bottles and reclaim 5-cent deposits from merchants until Feb. 1.

"I think it's going to be a big help. If it's something that's going to benefit this environment, yes, they should do it," said Judith Burris, a longtime resident of the Fairwinds community in Bear. "I know that it already has become more popular here. Not everybody is doing it, by any means, but a number of people do have their recycling picked up already."

DSWA will continue major landfill-based recycling programs and some Recycle Delaware drop off centers. Its own curbside pickup program -- which grew to tens of thousands of customers -- will end once private and municipal haulers are required to provide the service.

Sen. David B. McBride, D-Hawks Nest, who sponsored the Senate bill, said individuals and groups had been working for many of his 32 years in the General Assembly pushing for legislation to boost recycling.

The legislation cleared the General Assembly earlier this year after months of compromise talks launched by Markell last year. That effort picked up steam after Markell vetoed a bill last summer that would have simply repealed the state's 5-cent bottle deposit, without provisions for keeping bottles out of landfills.

Lawmakers approved the plan just ahead of a planned 50 percent rate increase for much of the household waste disposed at the Delaware Solid Waste Authority's landfills in all three counties.

"This is a real good opportunity to do it right," said Tom Houska, who represents Waste Management Inc.'s Delaware operations. "It gives everybody plenty of time to plan a transition. There's a lot involved."

Houska said his company could expand its residential service workforce by as much as 50 percent once the law takes effect.

Markell said that competition should hold down costs, allowing customers to shop for haulers with the best rates. Stepped up recycling should meanwhile hold down disposal costs for haulers, giving them savings that can help keep customer rates down.



Some critics of the plan argued that abandonment of the bottle deposit in favor of a recycling fee amounted to a new sales tax on a minority of beverage containers. Delaware's 28-year-old deposit program covered only smaller bottles of carbonated beverages and excluded ubiquitous beverages like tea, sports drinks and water.

Republican lawmakers warned that the fee unfairly singled out some businesses, and predicted a court challenge after Markell's signature. Additional Facts

#### ABOUT THE MEASURE

Recycling remains voluntary for all state residents. The measure requires all private or municipal government waste haulers to begin offering recycling pickups:

- . for all single-family home customers, restaurants and bars by Sept. 15, 2011;
- . for apartment buildings and other multifamily residences by Jan. 1, 2013;
- . for commercial sites by 2014.

### **Repeal Of Middle-class Housing Initiative Proposed (WILNJ)**

By Chad Livengood, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

New Castle County Councilman Bill Powers has introduced a measure to repeal the county's Workforce Housing Ordinance, even though he voted for the controversial initiative in 2008.

The ordinance was designed to entice developers to build more homes priced under \$270,000, because county officials believed middle-class families were being priced out of the market prior to the housing industry collapse two years ago.

"I think we need to go back to the drawing board," said Powers, a Townsend Democrat.

Powers' repeal effort comes as he faces mounting criticism from southern New Castle County constituents who believe the ordinance will lower their property values, ruin the area's rural charm and strain schools and roads that already are overcrowded.

The Appoquinimink School District has seen a large share of the rampant growth in recent years, and plans to open another elementary school and an early childhood development center in fall 2012 to meet rising demand, said Superintendent Tony Marchio.

The school district is not opposed to work-force housing developments, Marchio said, but "the [school] board is very concerned with the rate of growth and the strain that it has put on the school system."

"The issue with us is just growth in general and will this exacerbate a problem we [already] have here and the strain that it puts on the citizens who live in this area," Marchio said.

Andy Daley, a Republican who is challenging Powers in the November election, said the councilman's repeal effort is "too little, too late" because there are already 18 work-force housing developments in the planning stage.

"He thought it was so wrong that he's willing to flip-flop on the issue," Daley said. "I can't see him shoring up enough votes from his fellow councilmen at this point to reverse what they worked so hard to pass two years ago."

Two of the 18 work-force housing developments were recorded with the county this spring, giving them the green light to break ground, according to the county Land Use Department.



Those developments are Bayberry North on Boyds Corner Road near Middletown and Marra Landing on Newport Gap Pike in Mill Creek. Even if the ordinance is repealed, the existing work-force housing developments would still have the right to go forward, county officials said.

Chuck Mulholland, an Odessa resident and vocal critic of the ordinance, said Powers' repeal effort is just going through the motions to file "a lot of fancy paperwork" to placate voters.

"In a campaign season, one would have to question the timeliness of it," said Mulholland, president of the Civic League of New Castle County. "It doesn't accomplish anything."

The county Planning Board will likely consider the repeal in late August or early September before it could advance to a council committee for consideration.

Powers admits repealing the ordinance is an uphill battle, requiring a simple majority of seven of the 13 council members to vote for the change.

But Powers contends he's not putting forth a repeal because he's up for re-election this year.

After its passage in 2008, Powers co-sponsored a temporary delay of the ordinance. He said he's been working on making changes to the ordinance behind the scenes for six months, but to no avail.

If the county is going to give developers flexibility to build more densely populated neighborhoods, Powers said, he wants a trade-off to ensure the new density doesn't overcrowd schools and take away from open space.

"If we're going to gain density in an area, let's preserve something somewhere else," Powers said of the ordinance.

Several council members and County Executive Chris Coons said Powers' repeal effort is premature because not a single moderately priced home has been built under the ordinance yet.

"I think we should give it time to work and come back and look at its impact," said Coons, a Democrat who is running for the U.S. Senate this year.

In many ways, the recession stopped the ordinance, as new construction has plummeted in the past two years, said Councilman George Smiley, a New Castle Democrat.

Smiley also wants to give the ordinance time to develop new, moderately priced housing stock in areas where home prices are out of reach for average middle-class families.

"A law is always a work in progress," Smiley said. "You can always make changes on the books. We do it all the time when we amend the code."

Smiley said arguments against the ordinance have been tinged with subtle discrimination based on race and economic class.

"To quote what I heard a lot of them say, they don't want 'those people' in their area," Smiley said. "I don't see how you look down your nose at someone who works for a living and can afford to pay \$250,000 or \$275,000 for a home."

The ordinance is designed to provide middle-income wage earners with more housing stock, not subsidize their living arrangements like some government programs, Coons said.

"This is not about busloads of Section 8 inhabitants from Chester coming to turn the farm fields of Odessa into slums," Coons said.

## **University Of Delaware Robot Scours Sea For Signs Of Oil (WILNJ)**

By Wade Malcolm, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010



LEWES -- A few weeks ago, University of Delaware assistant professor Matt Oliver figured his underwater robot would spend a typical summer trolling the mid-Atlantic seas recording water conditions.

Those plans changed quickly after the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico started seeping to the east. Mote Marine Laboratories of Sarasota, Fla., needed Oliver's autonomous device to patrol Florida's Gulf Coast.

So glider robot UD134, affectionately known by researchers as the Blue Hen, dove into Gulf waters off the coast of Key West last week and started looking for signs of oil.

Just as it has for so many other scientists and engineers around the country, the spill has seized the focus of UD's School of Marine Science and Policy. Oliver and his colleagues have spent a hectic few weeks setting up computer programs to analyze the data the robot collects and relays via satellite.

The Blue Hen is part of a larger effort mounted by Mote, government agencies and universities as the oil approaches marine ecosystems surrounding Florida. The mission highlights some particular challenges created by the country's worst oil spill, gushing about a mile underwater: Researchers have developed most tracking, containment and environmental mitigation techniques for surface oil spills.

By measuring currents, temperature and water density, the Blue Hen -- and three similar robots from Rutgers University and the University of South Florida -- could help predict where the slick might head next. But, perhaps more importantly, they scout the depths for pockets of petroleum floating below the surface. The underwater oil is a source of growing concern for government officials and environmentalists. In a news conference Monday, Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said the oil has dispersed into hundreds of patches, meaning cleanup could take years.

The oil pooling on the surface is tracked easily from satellites or planes, scientists said. The dispersants act on the slick the way soap does on greasy hands. The oil washes away into the water, becoming less visible. But it doesn't disappear, Oliver said.

"If you disperse it, you get less gory photos of oil-drenched pelicans," Oliver said. "But it's not a solution to the problem. You're just choosing new victims."

Some of the subsurface petroleum will find its way into ocean sediments. If the concentration becomes high enough, it could destroy marine habitats, breeding grounds and food supplies, said Dominic DiToro, a UD professor of environmental engineering who researches aquatic and sediment toxicity.

"It's like dissolving a poison in cake batter," he said. "Long after that's gone, it's the sediments that will be the problem."

So far, none of the glider robots have detected subsurface oil headed in Florida's direction. But a large plume of oil sits inside a loop current precariously close to the Gulf Stream, which would carry the slick up the Eastern Seaboard. But seeing any oil in Delaware is "highly unlikely," Oliver said, thanks to the protection of the continental shelf.

Scientists at Mote labs are most concerned about Florida's barrier reef near the Keys, where the Blue Hen was launched. The only barrier reef in North America, it supports hundreds of species.

The Blue Hen patrols by beaming light down to the Gulf floor. If it reflects back with a certain fluorescence, hydrocarbons could be present, Oliver said. Research ships from Mote or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would then take samples to determine the oil's concentration and potential environmental impact.

The work of the Blue Hen -- and the efforts of other glider robots -- to track the movement of hydrocarbons has never been done before, reflecting the unprecedented nature of the crisis, Oliver said.



"That combination of things is, to my understanding, unique," said Gary Kirkpatrick, a senior scientist at Mote overseeing the operation. "We're discovering how to do these things, this particular task, as we go along."

Although none of them would have chosen this task, Oliver and the other researchers have marveled at the way advanced communications have aided collaboration and real-time monitoring of water conditions.

"It's horrifying what's going on down there, but it's been amazing the way different organizations have come together to do this," he said. "Ten years ago, no way it would have happened."

Oliver can track the Blue Hen's location and the data it collects in real time on nine LCD flat screens in his Lewes lab.

With its onboard satellite phone, the Blue Hen sends a voicemail to a call center in Arizona every three hours, Oliver said. The call center routes the text of the message to an IP address, which triggers an e-mail alert on Oliver's BlackBerry. The dense data set the robot reports feeds into mapping programs Oliver devised, providing a visual sense of conditions in that part of the Gulf.

Even if the researchers successfully track the petroleum's path, they will be powerless to stop it. The Blue Hens' mission is more about assessing the spill's impact to aid cleanup in the years to come. The process will be long and difficult, Oliver said.

"People keep asking, 'What can we do?' " Oliver said. "And I have to say, 'I'm not sure.' There are no good ways to clean subsurface oil." Additional Facts

ABOUT UD134 'BLUE HEN'

POWER SOURCE: More than 100 C-volt batteries

LENGTH: 5 feet

LOCOMOTION: The glider robot moves by adjusting its retractable nose, which changes its buoyancy to propel it forward.

SPEED: 1.6 miles per hour

WEIGHT: 115 pounds

SOURCE: University of Delaware's Matt Oliver and Teledyne Webb Research

### **Former Delaware Lawmaker Ada Leigh Soles Dies (WILNJ)**

By Robin Brown, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Education advocate and former state representative Ada Leigh Soles of Newark died Monday night at age 73.

Her husband of more than 50 years, University of Delaware Distinguished Professor Emeritus James R. Soles, said, "She was outstanding in every way."

"She was a very, very special lady and an unbelievable presence, a tremendous mother and grandmother," said her son-in-law Paul J. Pomeroy, a Newark city councilman. "It's a tough loss, not only for the family, but for the community."

A representative from 1980 through 1992, she had five Joint Finance Committee terms, led grant reform and championed ethics, education and libraries.

U.S. Rep. Mike Castle, offered condolences, calling her "a very bright, kind-hearted, compassionate and genuine woman who always had the best interest of her constituents and district in mind." Recalling



times with her when he was governor, Castle said, "I will always remember very fondly her sincerity for helping others."

Soles decided not to run again as Parkinson's disease began to tire her, but she became a senior adviser to then-Gov. Tom Carper.

"We needed somebody who understood the legislature, knew the legislators and was trusted by both Republicans and Democrats," Carper said. "Because of her, they were willing to work with us."

Carper said her death made him sad, but grateful he knew her.

Soles had been in a Newark-area care facility for the past 18 months. "She was in such bad health for so long," James said, "at least she is now at peace."

Ada Leigh and James met in college, working at a summer camp in their home state of Florida. She was valedictorian at Landon High School, Jacksonville, where her mother had been the first valedictorian, and studied English at Florida State University.

"I knew she was the only person on Earth I would be happy with," he said. "I proposed to her over 300 times, once twice in one day." She finally agreed.

Ada Leigh was first in her class, president of Alpha Chi Omega and the student body.

In 1968, they came to Newark. As their two daughters grew, she worked at UD, led library groups and the League of Women Voters before she was recruited to run for the House. She is in the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame and received honors from the University of Delaware, National Library Association, the Delaware Bar Association and Delaware Humanities Forum.

Last year, a student of 45 years earlier wrote to her that Ada Leigh made a huge difference in her life. James "read that letter to her many, many times."

On Aug. 1, James held her hand and said it was their 50th anniversary. "She said, just as clear as a bell, 'We were married on a Saturday,'" he said. "That was the last moment that I'm certain she knew who I was."

She is survived by Catherine and Paul J. Pomeroy, children Paul IV and Julia; Nancy Beth and Dan Garrett of California and children Elizabeth Leigh, Thomas, Maggie and Jack.

A memorial will be 11 a.m. Monday at St. James Episcopal Church, 2916 St. James Church Road, Stanton. The family suggests gifts to Friends of Newark Free Library, 750 Library Ave., Newark, DE 19711 or Food Bank of Delaware, 14 Garfield Way, Newark, DE 19713.

## **Espionage Case Set For Sentencing (WILNJ)**

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

A former DuPont Co. research chemist who confessed to industrial espionage is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court on Sept. 14.

Hong Meng, 43, faces a maximum of 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a federal charge of theft of trade secrets. He also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Meng admitted to stealing sensitive research information from the DuPont Co. Meng planned to use the research on organic light-emitting diodes to compete with DuPont after he took a teaching position in China, officials from the United States Attorney's Office of Delaware said Tuesday.

In the spring of 2009, Meng accepted a position on the faculty of Peking University College of Engineering in Beijing, while still employed by DuPont and without company permission, prosecutors said.



He made a presentation to a regional Chinese government to get financial support for his OLED research, they said.

The investigation also found that, in August of 2009, Meng mailed a package with 109 samples of DuPont chemical compounds to a colleague at Northwestern University, asking that they be forwarded to Meng's office in Beijing.

Meng also admitted lying to the FBI during the course of their investigation, according to a statement from David C. Weiss, the U.S. attorney, and Richard A. McFeely, special agent in charge of the Baltimore FBI field office.

"Ensuring the protection of sensitive technologies created by our trusted partners in the private sector has, and will remain, a critical goal of the FBI's Wilmington office," McFeely said in a statement. "We remain committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who exploit U.S. technologies for their own gain."

"The conviction of Dr. Hong Meng demonstrates our office's commitment to prosecuting offenses involving the unauthorized accessing of trade secret information. We will continue to vigilantly enforce intellectual property offenses, particularly when such offenses involve the possible transmittal of sensitive trade secret information outside the United States," Weiss said in a statement.

### **Billboard Makes A Splash In Downtown Wilmington (WILNJ)**

By Eric Ruth, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

WILMINGTON -- Big names and big aspirations deserve big gestures.

That belief was the impetus behind the supersized billboard now looming over Market Street, believed to be the biggest wrap-around-style installation of its kind in the country.

Part cultural tribute, part city-pride pep talk, the sign was conceived by developer Buccini/Pollin Group more as an artful mural than pure marketing schtick. On the 145-by-25-foot sign, six Delaware artists of international renown are portrayed over a cityscape, topped with the exhortation "Celebrate the music and soul of our city."

There's Clifford Brown, jazz trumpet great and Wilmingtonian. David Bromberg, folk musician and current city resident. Bob Marley, reggae singer extraordinaire who lived in Delaware for a time. Cab Calloway, boogie-woogie bandleader and inspiration for the School of the Arts that bears his name.

Around the corner along Seventh Street, the sign continues: Susan Stroman, Tony Award-winning theater director and choreographer. And finally George Thorogood, "Bad to the Bone" rock musician.

For the local firms involved, the billboard stands as a gracefully executed, tastefully articulated reminder. In a city that can be prone to doubting its ability to boast, it helps to show Wilmingtonians -- and outsiders -- that the city's cultural heritage is bigger than many might think, and that its future holds potential to honor that past.

"For us, it was a perfect fit, because we moved downtown because we believe in the revitalization of downtown," said Matt Urban, president of Mobius New Media, which did design work on the billboard.

Artistically, the billboard sought to evoke a redefined vision of the city through a still-vital past. Structurally, it had to be assembled with painstaking precision to avoid appearing "hung there" like some cheap banner.



"We really wanted to capture the essence of Wilmington and incorporate the musicians and artists" who stand as examples of a legacy to be celebrated, said Marnay Harris, 23, Mobius' lead designer on the project.

Installation took a crew of six about 12 hours -- and more than a few brainstorming sessions to get the "crease" where it wraps around the building straight and crisp, said Simon Cranny, owner of Precision Color Graphics in Wilmington. More than 1,000 clips were used to mount the mesh sign onto a recycled-aluminum frame.

"Each one of those is what tightens the graphic," Cranny said. "That's what gives it the seamless look. It had to be aesthetically pleasing, but it also had to be architecturally sound."

Cranny suspects the sign is sound enough to hang for the next five years. After all the work that went into it, it had better.

"It was one of those things where you were happy to do it and happy to be done with it," he joked.

### **DuPont Gets Regulatory OK For Genetically Altered Soybean (WILNJ)**

By Jonathan Starkey, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved soybean seeds that DuPont genetically modified to produce more healthful cooking oil, DuPont's biotech seed business said Tuesday.

Pioneer Hi-Bred's "Plenish" branded soybean produces oil with 20 percent less saturated fat than traditional soybean oil and no trans fats.

Naturally, soybean oil contains no trans fats, a Pioneer spokesman said. That fat is added during the process of hydrogenation -- adding hydrogen to the oil -- which stabilizes it and allows food companies to fry with it at high temperatures.

Fatty soybean oil has lost market share in the cooking oil market in recent years, as food companies have taken steps to reduce trans fats in their foods.

"Obtaining USDA deregulation for Plenish high-oleic soybeans is an example of Pioneer's increased focus and capability in moving biotech traits through global regulatory systems and into farmers' fields," Paul Schickler, Pioneer's president, said in a statement.

Pioneer will introduce the Plenish soybeans in its Pioneer brand Y varieties.

DuPont said Monday that the soybean has been shown to offer similar yields as products already on the market.

The Plenish product will be field-tested this year and next, and DuPont expects a full commercial rollout in 2012.

The company expects to receive regulatory approval from the European Union and other important soybean importers worldwide, such as China, Japan and Taiwan, by 2012.

The product has already received regulatory approval in Canada and Mexico. The go-ahead from the USDA was the final U.S. regulatory hurdle.

### **Delaware Business: Tigani Bankruptcy Halts Sheriff's Sale (WILNJ)**

By Esteban Parra And Maureen Milford, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Liquor distributor Christopher Tigani filed bankruptcy documents Tuesday, stopping a sheriff's sale of his Westover Hills mansion that formerly belonged to Charles Cawley, founder of MBNA credit card bank.



The filing creates an automatic stay that prevents Tigani's creditors from taking any action to collect a debt. The stay could hold them at bay for up to four months as Tigani comes up with a plan to repay his debts, said Juliet M. Moringiello, a bankruptcy professor at Widener University School of Law's Harrisburg campus.

"Really, the punch line is a bankruptcy filing does hold off a foreclosure, but it doesn't hold it off forever," Moringiello said.

Tigani, who filed the seven-page document in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

In his plan, Tigani will have to agree to pay for his home in full or lose it, Moringiello said. That's because people cannot modify their home mortgages during bankruptcy. Moringiello said the mortgage company could file a petition claiming its interests are not being protected.

Tigani filed Chapter 11, which allows him to reorganize under the bankruptcy code, about an hour before the sheriff's sale was to start.

He estimated he owes between \$10,000,001 and \$50 million. He stated the same amount for his assets. The debts are primarily consumer debts that were incurred for "personal, family or household purpose," according to the filing.

Among the 28 creditors Tigani listed were five law firms, Flowers by Yukie, BMW Financial Services, North Hills Cleaners and Strictly Gutter Cleaning. The filing did not say how much he owed each business.

Had the sale gone through, it would have been one of the highest-profile mortgage meltdowns in Wilmington's recent history. The 23,937-square-foot home just off Del. 52 was bought by Tigani in 2008.

Tigani, who has been embroiled in a bitter legal battle with his father, Robert Tigani, over control of the family's lucrative liquor business, N.K.S. Distributors Inc. in New Castle, declined to comment Monday after losing a bid in Delaware Chancery Court to keep the house off the auction block until the judge ruled on a claim against Wilmington Trust Co. that related to the overall N.K.S. battle.

Christopher Tigani had alleged that Wilmington Trust, which gave him a \$4.1 million adjustable-rate mortgage in 2008, conspired with his father and N.K.S. to force him out of the liquor business. But Vice Chancellor Donald F. Parsons Jr., who has presided over the father-son dispute, wrote Monday that Tigani has not shown a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits of the case.

"... Because, even if Bob and N.K.S. acted wrongfully, it seems unlikely that Chris' evidence will be sufficient to show that WTC knowingly entered into a confederation with Bob and N.K.S. to oust Chris from his position at N.K.S.," Parsons wrote.

The evidence shows that the actions Wilmington Trust took were simply to safeguard the bank's interest, Parsons wrote.

The mortgage called for Tigani to pay installments of interest monthly until June 2009, when the mortgage matured and the entire sum secured by the mortgage was due and payable in full. Tigani also took out a \$1 million loan from Wilmington Trust to purchase furniture for the residence.

When Tigani failed to pay the entire sum, Wilmington Trust filed a foreclosure action against him in July in Superior Court. The bank got a judgment in Superior Court earlier this year. Tigani chose not to appeal.

Instead he went to Chancery Court in March and got a reprieve on the sheriff's sale from Parsons.

Parsons extinguished the temporary restraining order Monday and denied Tigani's motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the bank from completing the sheriff's sale.



In testimony before Parsons on Friday, Timothy Jay Houseal, the attorney for Wilmington Trust, said Tigani had lived in the house rent-free for a year and it was harmful to the bank to have a \$5 million property "sitting there."

An inspection of the house showed significant problems, including a flat roof that was leaking and needed an estimated \$200,000 in repairs.

"The property is not maintained in the pristine condition that Mr. Cawley had it," said Houseal, who would not comment Tuesday on Tigani's filing. "The value of the property is decreasing in the market as long as Mr. Tigani owns it."

Tigani countered that there were "big shoes to fill" to maintain the house the way Cawley did.

"I'm doing the very best I can, but I don't have a staff," he said.

Still, Tigani admitted he made a mistake when he bought the house.

"If I had to take it back, I would not have bought it," Tigani said. "But the fact is I did buy it."

### **Delaware Environment: Volunteers Sought For Sixth Annual Cleanup Of The Inland Bays (WILNJ)**

By The (salisbury, Md.) Daily Times

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

DEWEY BEACH -- The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Center for the Inland Bays are looking for volunteers for the sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays on June 19.

This year, the cleanup will once again concentrate on two locations. The northern group will meet at the Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road and concentrate on the Rehoboth and Indian River bays. The southern group will meet at the Mulberry Landing Public Boat Ramp at the Assawoman Wildlife Area just southwest of Bethany Beach.

Last year's event drew 100 volunteers who collected a large quantity of debris, including soda bottles and cans, tires and derelict crab pots. A large construction trash bin was donated and filled by the end of the day.

"With this event, we are continuing our public outreach on behalf of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware State Parks, the Center for the Inland Bays and our Fish and Wildlife Enforcement volunteers," said DNREC's Capt. Aaron Hurd.

Volunteers should dress to get dirty and be prepared for cooler conditions on the water, as well as wet walking conditions on land. Boots are also suggested. Those who have access to life jackets should bring one, as they are required on boats. Otherwise, life jackets will be provided. Young children should not attend.

Local businesses are donating money, food and equipment. Volunteers who can bring shallow-draft boats are encouraged to take part.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, as lunch and T-shirts will be provided. Additional Facts

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays

WHERE: Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road or Mulberry Landing Public Boat Ramp at the Assawoman Wildlife Area near Bethany Beach

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., June 19

CONTACT: 270-8496 or [aaron.hurd@state.de.us](mailto:aaron.hurd@state.de.us)



## **Delaware Skateboarders' Park Falls Victim To Bulldozer (WILNJ)**

By Dara McBride, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Worried about liability issues, state workers bulldozed an unauthorized skateboard park at an abandoned supermarket site in Stanton on Tuesday.

Sean Suvie, 22, and Shawn Skibicki, 26, who were among the area skateboarders who built the "Pink Spot" over the past four months, said they spent about \$3,000 to pour concrete, clean up graffiti and paint. The problem: The site was built without permission on state property.

"Up until this point, no one said 'no,'" Suvie said.

The Pink Spot, on West Newport Pike, was built on a former Acme supermarket lot that was painted pink. Skibicki said the park was 12 years in the making -- he and friends would skateboard in the parking lot, and after the building was demolished two years ago, it became an ideal site. The skaters thought the flat, abandoned lot would never be developed, Skibicki said, because it is located on a flood plain.

The park was a liability to the state, Delaware Department of Transportation Manager of North District Operations Bill Thatcher said, noting officials were alerted to the problem about two weeks ago after a teenage skateboarder injured his leg at the site.

"It's state property. The accident happened, the child was hurt, police were called and something had to be done," Thatcher said.

DelDOT has owned the property since 2004.

DelDOT spokesman Mike Williams said a department team of three or four men cleaned park benches and pizza boxes from the site. DelDOT plans to reinstate the "No Trespassing" signs that had been removed by users and keep the site empty.

The state's decision to clean up the site, which hadn't been announced, angered some skateboarders, who assembled at the site Tuesday and shouted curses at the DelDOT crew, Thatcher said.

After one skateboarder urinated on a DelDOT truck, workers called police, and a New Castle County officer and a state trooper responded. No arrests were made.

Ben Jones, co-owner of Kinetic Skateboarding in Brandywine Hundred, said he wishes state officials would change their minds because the state doesn't have a free skate park.

"I think it should be a no-brainer, given that none of the government here has been able to create a safe, free place to skate," he said.

Mark Calder, co-founder of the Wilmington Skate Project, said, "I don't blame anybody for doing something that needs to be done."

Calder said it is time for the state to respond to the need for a skate park because the sport is one of the most popular.

"There are baseball fields and tennis courts all around," he said.

The project began working on a temporary location at East Seventh Street Park in Wilmington last month.

Wilmington City Council planned a \$250,000 public skateboard park in 2007 but has been unable to secure funding, said City Councilman Kevin Kelley, who hopes the park can be built once economic conditions improve.

Suvie said skaters realize now that how they built the Stanton park was a problem.



"If we could have this back and do it legally, we would. And we would make it bigger and safer," Suvie said.

But he believes in what the skaters were doing.

He said the site taught skateboarders as young as 8 skating etiquette. He bought trash cans and bags for the site, and neighbors thanked the skaters for keeping the area free of litter and graffiti, he said.

After the demolition was completed, Suvie went back to the spot to gather up pieces of the pink rubble for himself and his friends.

"It's just something to remember it by, because we're never going to have a spot like this again," he said.

### **Delaware Government: New Animal Shelter Standards Pushed (WILNJ)**

By Ginger Gibson, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

DOVER -- Animal shelters would be subject to new regulations that would reduce the number of animals euthanized under legislation announced Tuesday by legislators and Gov. Jack Markell.

Senate Bill 280 would create the first statewide standards for the five animal shelters currently operating in the state and any new shelters that might open, Senate Majority Leader Patricia Blevins, D-Elsmere, said.

"It will create uniformity on the way they treat animals in their facilities," Blevins said.

The bill is the most recent in a series meant to improve animal protection. Legislation to allow dogs that attack cats to be deemed dangerous was passed by the Senate is awaiting action in the House. A bill increasing penalties for attending animal fights was signed by Markell last month.

The newest bill requires that animals receive inoculations within nine hours of entering a shelter and see a veterinarian within three days, said Blevins, the bill's sponsor.

It also would require that shelters post online photos of all lost and stray dogs they receive, Blevins said, to make it easier for people to locate their pets.

"This effort makes it easier for families to adopt pets, makes it safer for pets as they await adoption and makes it very clear that our existing state shelters are committed to quality standards," Markell said in a news release.

Shelters such the Kent County SPCA that euthanize animals would have to contact the other shelters before killing an animal to see if there is room for it somewhere else, Blevins said. This requirement should reduce the number of animals euthanized, she said.

Blevins isn't concerned that stray animals will be turned away from shelters if more pets are kept alive, because the Kent County SPCA is required to accept all animals from Kent and New Castle counties.

The legislation establishes standards and procedures for euthanizing animals. The use of decompression chambers would be prohibited and animals must be supervised from the time of lethal injections until death.

The legislation is co-sponsored by Rep. Melanie George, D-Bear, in the House.

"They say that you can judge society by how well it treats the least well-off members," George said in a news release. "Animals who are housed in shelters are among the least well-off living creatures. They deserve to be treated how we would want any of our pets to be treated."

### **Delaware Environment: Volunteers Sought For Sixth Annual Cleanup Of The Inland Bays (WILNJ)**



By The (salisbury, Md.) Daily Times

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

DEWEY BEACH -- The state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Center for the Inland Bays are looking for volunteers for the sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays on June 19.

This year, the cleanup will once again concentrate on two locations. The northern group will meet at the Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road and concentrate on the Rehoboth and Indian River bays. The southern group will meet at the Mulberry Landing Public Boat Ramp at the Assawoman Wildlife Area just southwest of Bethany Beach.

Last year's event drew 100 volunteers who collected a large quantity of debris, including soda bottles and cans, tires and derelict crab pots. A large construction trash bin was donated and filled by the end of the day.

"With this event, we are continuing our public outreach on behalf of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Delaware State Parks, the Center for the Inland Bays and our Fish and Wildlife Enforcement volunteers," said DNREC's Capt. Aaron Hurd.

Volunteers should dress to get dirty and be prepared for cooler conditions on the water, as well as wet walking conditions on land. Boots are also suggested. Those who have access to life jackets should bring one, as they are required on boats. Otherwise, life jackets will be provided. Young children should not attend.

Local businesses are donating money, food and equipment. Volunteers who can bring shallow-draft boats are encouraged to take part.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, as lunch and T-shirts will be provided. Additional Facts

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Sixth annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays

WHERE: Massey's Landing Public Boat Ramp at the end of Long Neck Road or Mulberry Landing Public Boat Ramp at the Assawoman Wildlife Area near Bethany Beach

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., June 19

CONTACT: 270-8496 or [aaron.hurd@state.de.us](mailto:aaron.hurd@state.de.us)

### **Putting Their Lives Back Together (WILNJ)**

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Residents displaced from their homes by a deadly fire in Dover on Sunday were allowed to return to the building to recover some belongings Tuesday.

Management teams and local authorities escorted residents of the Woodcrest Arms apartments to find what they could salvage. The early morning fire heavily damaged the 28-unit building, caused two deaths and injured nine people, including firefighters. A total of 150 people were left homeless.

Carmesha Truitt, 21, and her boyfriend, Jordan Speight, were among those allowed inside to gather what they could. They went with hopes of getting much more than they left with.

She got her 17-month-old son's diapers, her collection of 200 DVDs, a TV her mother had given her for Christmas and a diamond-studded necklace that Speight bought her for Christmas.



"Besides that, there was nothing else we could really take," Truitt said. "It looked like water damage took over our apartment. Our bathroom was destroyed. I think we were upset because hardly any of us had insurance and that's all of our stuff that we have to purchase again," Truitt said.

Truitt and Speights found a new apartment in Dover, but the rent is \$100 a month more than the \$650 they had been paying.

"I have faith that everything is going to be okay," she said. "I believe that God will fix everything for everybody."

Karen McAlonen, vice president of property operations, said the experience of visiting the damaged apartments has been stressful for everyone.

"We are working hand in hand with our residents to help them in every way we can," she said. "This was an emotional day for our residents and for our team."

Officials believe the fire started on the ground floor, raced up a stairwell and across the building's roof. Some residents leapt from windows because the fire moved so quickly.

The body of Jacqueline Wuest, 61, was found inside the building Sunday. Christina Lynn Taylor, 33, of Felton, died Monday as a result of her injuries.

Dover police would not say whether Taylor was one of two occupants of the building taken to Crozer-Chester Medical Center in Upland, Pa., in critical condition Sunday. An update on the condition of those victims has not been released.

Agencies including the American Red Cross are finding accommodations for those displaced by the fire. Dover's Central Delaware YMCA has been taking donations. Area restaurants, including Outback and Olive Garden have been feeding displaced residents.

Rep. Darryl Scott, D-Dover, sent an e-mail to lawmakers and supporters asking for donations for the victims of the fire. He placed boxes around Legislative Hall to collect items.

"Anything you think a family that lost everything needs, we could use," he said.

The Dover Fire Marshal's Office is still trying to determine the cause of the fire. Crews will be at the scene again today. The Fire Marshal's Office has also turned queries about the investigation over to the police department because there were fatalities.

### **Delaware Police Defend Delay In Rape Alert (WILNJ)**

By Terry Sanginiti And Sarah Larson, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

While the head of the state police Tuesday defended his detectives' decision to not initially release information on a rape investigation, some area women who work near where the abduction happened expressed anger at the delayed notification.

State Police Superintendent Col. Robert M. Coupe also said internal affairs is investigating how a sensitive Delaware Information & Analysis Center (DIAC) bulletin was released to the public.

And security was stepped up Tuesday at the two locations where the abductions occurred.

"It never really dawned on me that it could happen," said Sallie Mae employee Jennifer Dudkewitz as she walked into an office building at 300 Continental Drive in Stanton. "With police around, it feels safer."

Sallie Mae corporate officials declined to discuss the increased measures they are taking, saying it would be a "breach of security."

But a state trooper was stationed in the parking lot.



"We work hard to provide a safe environment for our employees and visitors," said Martha Holler of Sallie Mae. "The entire community is outraged by the recent incidents. Given where we live and work in the area, we are engaged with police and helping them to bring this criminal to justice."

A 27-year-old woman was abducted at gunpoint there last Wednesday from the First State Surgery parking lot, driven around for five hours, raped three times and forced to withdraw money at an ATM. A 22-year-old woman also was abducted at gunpoint Saturday morning in the parking lot at Sallie Mae and driven around by the gunman, who raped her and returned her to the parking lot 45 minutes later.

Patricia Telford, executive director of ContactLifeline, which provides crisis counseling for rape victims, said the public needs to be notified if a forcible rape and abduction occurs.

"We need to take the victims seriously," Telford said. "All rapists are serial rapists. No rapist rapes once."

The police's job is to investigate and gather data, and that's the route they follow, Telford said.

"When something of this nature happens, abducted by gunpoint in the parking lot of where she works, it should have raised the level of security awareness to women," she said.

Ellen Nelson, of Newark, a recipient of the DIAC bulletin, said she was upset that the information was not released sooner.

"As a mother and a woman, I am outraged that the police did not notify the public in a prompt and timely manner," she said. "Is that not their job? Who knows if the second attack would have been prevented if public notification had taken place."

Coupe said detectives were focused on the investigation, visiting the locations that the first victim pointed out and hoped to recover evidence "that would have led to a quick resolution."

"Unfortunately, there was another incident," he said. "They were balancing the responsibility to the public with justice for the victim while maintaining the integrity of the investigation."

He said it was an "investigative decision" not to release too much information.

"If too much information is put out, it can hamper the investigation," Coupe said. Details are not disclosed immediately to protect the victim and others are not disclosed to protect the investigation."

When a bank is robbed, the surveillance photo and information are published soon after, Nelson said.

"Are the women who live and work in this area not more valuable than that?" she asked.

State police conducted a reverse 911 Monday night alerting the public in the areas of the abductions.

They are displaying the composites of the suspect on Clear Channel's digital billboard, on northbound I-95 near Newark and south of the rest area.

"We have received a lot of tips and are trying to keep up with it," said state police Sgt. Walter Newton. "We're hoping that we receive information that will lead to an identification."

Other patients and staff members going in and out of the building also thought police should have informed the public sooner.

"It's a shame that there are any crimes like that and that they are coming more and more to the suburbs and nicer areas," said Linda Evans, of Newark. "On the other hand, you just need to be wise and you can't live in fear."

Sharon Williams, of Stanton, said her niece alerted her about the incident because she was going to the medical practice for the first time Tuesday.

"I heard about it and that's really terrible," Williams said of the rape. "It's not really safe anymore anywhere."



Addressing the release of the DIAC bulletin -- that was widely circulated by e-mail -- Coupe said it was never meant for the public.

The bulletin, also received by The News Journal, contained details about the two incidents police did not release.

"It's unfortunate that it fell into the public domain," Coupe said. "It is circulated to law enforcement and that's its intended use, for law enforcement."

He said there are concerns that it was made public and it's now under investigation as to who exactly released it.

"We are addressing that internally," Coupe said.

### **Delaware Roads: Bear Crash Kills One, Injures Two (WILNJ)**

By The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

New Castle County police say at least one person died after being ejected in a head-on crash in Bear on Tuesday afternoon.

The accident happened about 2:45 p.m. on Reybold Road, near the Gray Acres development.

Two other occupants of the vehicles were taken to Christiana Hospital for evaluation.

The seriousness of their injuries was not known Tuesday, said police Senior Cpl. Trinidad Navarro.

The investigation is continuing. The road was closed until about 6 p.m.

### **Espionage Case Set For Sentencing (WILNJ)**

By Ira Porter, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

A former DuPont Co. research chemist who confessed to industrial espionage is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court on Sept. 14.

Hong Meng, 43, faces a maximum of 10 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to a federal charge of theft of trade secrets. He also could be fined up to \$250,000.

Meng admitted to stealing sensitive research information from the DuPont Co. Meng planned to use the research on organic light-emitting diodes to compete with DuPont after he took a teaching position in China, officials from the United States Attorney's Office of Delaware said Tuesday.

In the spring of 2009, Meng accepted a position on the faculty of Peking University College of Engineering in Beijing, while still employed by DuPont and without company permission, prosecutors said. He made a presentation to a regional Chinese government to get financial support for his OLED research, they said.

The investigation also found that, in August of 2009, Meng mailed a package with 109 samples of DuPont chemical compounds to a colleague at Northwestern University, asking that they be forwarded to Meng's office in Beijing.

Meng also admitted lying to the FBI during the course of their investigation, according to a statement from David C. Weiss, the U.S. attorney, and Richard A. McFeely, special agent in charge of the Baltimore FBI field office.

"Ensuring the protection of sensitive technologies created by our trusted partners in the private sector has, and will remain, a critical goal of the FBI's Wilmington office," McFeely said in a statement. "We remain committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who exploit U.S. technologies for their own gain."



"The conviction of Dr. Hong Meng demonstrates our office's commitment to prosecuting offenses involving the unauthorized accessing of trade secret information. We will continue to vigilantly enforce intellectual property offenses, particularly when such offenses involve the possible transmittal of sensitive trade secret information outside the United States," Weiss said in a statement.

## **WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL EDITORIALS**

### **Primaries May Be Over, But The Same Problems Remain (WILNJ)**

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

The political world is awash in explanations today. The winners of yesterday's primary elections are busy proclaiming their march to victory, while the losers spin away the results. Pundits, likewise, are tied up offering views on what it all "means."

Whatever the results, the problems that faced each of the states with a June 8 primary and the problems that face the country as a whole are still there, the day after the vote.

The incumbents who survived challenges still don't have a clue about how to solve the financial crisis or create jobs. And the self-proclaimed upstarts, such as the tea party-backed candidates, are still giving us the same slogans: smaller government and lower taxes. But slogans aren't solutions.

For example, incumbents and challengers alike called for cutting waste and reducing spending. But whose waste and what spending?

Voters in California told pollsters they are more worried about their state's financial problems than any of the national issues. They want the budget brought into line. But how? Some candidates called for abolishing the Internal Revenue Code. Fair enough, but what would it be replaced with?

Ronald Reagan, when he was campaigning, used to joke that people scoffed at him for saying the answers were simple. He replied that they are simple; they just aren't easy.

As yesterday's winners move to the November elections, they should keep that in mind.

### **Police Shouldn't Have Kept Rape Incident From Public (WILNJ)**

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

Why did the New Castle County police fail to notify the public about a rapist on the loose?

According to police reports, two women were raped after they were abducted while sitting in their cars in public places during daylight. There was no reason for the women to be especially wary as they went about their business. Both crimes occurred near Stanton and police are going on the theory the rapist in both incidents is the same man.

Certainly, police cannot prevent every crime, but the police failed to alert the public after the first incident occurred last Wednesday morning.

If an alarm had been sounded by the police, perhaps the second victim, who was kidnapped and raped Saturday morning, may have had the opportunity to take extra precautions.

There are times when it is logical, prudent and strategic for police to delay releasing information about a crime. Sometimes police officials do not want to panic the public with incomplete information or vague reports of an unconfirmed crime. At other times, temporarily delaying information to protect someone who is actually in harm's way makes sense. But news about the kidnap and rape of a woman in the parking lot of a medical facility around noon on a Wednesday is not something that should be hidden.



The police did not have to release all of the details. They did not have to tip their investigation or make public any leads. However, they should have alerted the public so it could take action.

### **Deteriorating Houses In Parks Give New Castle County A Black Eye (WILNJ)**

By Ron Williams, The News Journal

[Wilmington News Journal](#), June 9, 2010

One of the prettier New Castle County parks is just outside Newport off Maryland Avenue. Banning Park is an expansive, wide-open space with all the needed amenities of a good park, from tennis courts to barbecue grills.

The trees are fully mature and thick with foliage this time of year.

But just to the left of the entrance, next to the Daniel Frawley Soccer Field, is a striking eyesore that would make the uninformed think New Castle County's parks department is made up of a gang of apathetic lazybones.

A once-beautiful, two-story Georgian-style brick home -- whose most noticeable attributes today are the huge plywood rectangles covering the busted-out windows -- is rotting away at its core. The backyard, which sits next to the park's maintenance yard, is full of brush and littered with junk. Not the kind of thing county residents are likely to put on a county park tour with their out-of-state friends.

The house was once home to the Special Services Division, which runs the parks, and then various charitable organizations until maintenance began to fall off. And this is not the only county-owned house on park property that's falling apart. County Council President Paul Clark estimates there are about 12 of them in various stages of disrepair.

Until County Executive Chris Coons took office some six years ago, the county was renting out the homes at reasonable rates to county employees and cops. But Coons decided it was not financially prudent for the county to be in the house rental business and pulled the plug on renewing the leases.

That led to the falloff in maintenance and upkeep of the county's housing.

Now the county finds itself in a Catch-22 situation, in that renovating the homes and keeping them maintained -- including the farmhouse at Glasgow Park -- is cost-prohibitive. And renting them out to private individuals to do the repairs doesn't work because banks don't want to lend home repair money to people who don't own the property.

Before some of New Castle County's low-lifes start deciding these buildings make good arson material, Clark would like to see the county tap some cheap bond money to make the needed repairs around the county.

Renting them out to say, rookie police officers who are just starting a family, would be a good way to provide some on-site security and keep the stately old homes from deteriorating further. A parked patrol car in the driveway would at least play some role in keeping vagrants and troublemakers out of the parks.

As Clark, a former member of the Board of Adjustment, points out, most private citizens couldn't get away with throwing some plywood up on the windows of a vacant house without facing a zoning violation.

Fixing these places up and bringing in some revenue is at least worthy of review and a financial assessment of how much bond money and expense would be required.

Another possible solution might be a resident curatorship program for the homes. That approach is already under way.

Republicans are filling it up



It's still a work in progress, but Republican state party Chairman Tom Ross is moving along smartly toward his goal of putting a candidate in every open slot for the state legislature and county councils, even New Castle County Council, which in recent years have been ignored by the Republicans. And with the nearly 2-1 D's registration figures in the county, who can blame them?

But this is a different kind of political year, with Republicans smelling discontent with the incumbent Democrats.

The Republicans have even filled candidacies in southern New Castle County, a bastion of Democrats, and in highly Democratic legislative districts like Sen. Nancy Cook's in Kent County.

It's refreshing to see the Rs at least trying to make these races competitive. And who knows? Maybe they'll even win some.

Now, about that attorney general's opening.

Looking from the inside out

A realistic and forward-looking group of firefighters known as the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association has a new website to promote favorable news items about the fire service, and also the unfavorable side.

The latest edition of the Delaware Fire Service News has an item about the new program, which can be found at [www.cvvfa.org](http://www.cvvfa.org).

The CVVFA said "reckless and inappropriate conduct by a small minority of the nation's fire service is eroding the high moral ground occupied by firefighters," its white paper said.

Increased vigilance and personal responsibility are the goals of the CVVFA, a century-old group dedicated to enhancing communication and continuing education among the fire service.

## **BIDEN IN THE NEWS**

### **Biden Praises Kenya Leaders For Political Cooperation (NYT)**

By Jeffrey Gettleman

[New York Times](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya - Vice President Joseph R. **Biden** Jr. stood at a lectern in Kenya's capital on Tuesday afternoon with the sun peeking out behind the clouds and a huge grin spreading across his face.

It was not Nairobi's perfect climate nor the new road construction nor this city's verdant parks that impressed him. It was that Kenya's president, Mwai Kibaki, and the prime minister, Raila Odinga, actually seemed to be on the same page.

"Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister, I think we've had some very productive discussions today, covering many interests," Mr. **Biden** said after meeting top Kenyan officials. "But I must tell you, I was truly impressed by the mutual cooperation between you and the prime minister and your commitment - your mutual commitment - to reform."

Kenya is still stumbling out of the disaster of late 2007 and early 2008, when a disputed election split the country along ethnic lines and set off widespread bloodshed. The feuding leaders were Mr. Kibaki and Mr. Odinga.

Mr. **Biden** looked quite at ease standing between them on Tuesday. He is the highest-ranking American official to visit Kenya in years. Though Kenyans feel a special bond to President Obama, whose father was Kenyan, the pundits and public here have been speculating for weeks about what message Mr. **Biden** might bring.



So far, his message seems positive.

Mr. **Biden** talked briefly about the constitutional and judicial reforms that Kenya is trying to enact and said meeting Kenya's leaders made him "more optimistic than I have been about the prospects of this reform occurring."

"I can tell you, when these reforms take place, you will find a completely different atmosphere about investment in this country," he said. "Americans want to do business here, they want to travel here, and with the right climate, they will come."

Mr. **Biden** made a stop in Kenya on his way to South Africa, where he will attend the opening of the World Cup at the end of the week.

### **Biden Visit Seeks Better Kenya Ties (WSJ)**

By Sarah Childress

[Wall Street Journal](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya-U.S. Vice President Joe **Biden** held out the potential for more investment in Kenya, a critical ally whose help has been sought stabilizing a troubled East African region that includes neighboring Somalia.

The vice president's remarks Tuesday during a brief trip to the region represent a softening of U.S. criticism. American officials have chided Kenya in the past for what has been perceived as a halting anticorruption drive and the slow pace of promised constitutional change. Washington has imposed a travel ban on Kenya's attorney general, who is seen as blocking changes.

During his visit, Mr. **Biden** offered more carrot than stick, vowing more business and a robust partnership between the two countries. "As Kenya moves forward so too will the United States in strengthening our relationships with you, both economically and politically," he said, adding that he was "more optimistic than I have been" that political changes would take place.

Washington is relying on help from East African allies in dealing with nearby Somalia, which has become a magnet for al Qaeda-backed militants. U.S. officials say al Shabaab, a militant group allied with al Qaeda, is attempting to establish a base for a broader terror network. On Saturday, two U.S. citizens were arrested at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and charged with planning to fly to Somalia to fight with al Shabaab in the hopes of killing Americans.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said he had asked the U.S. to take more of a lead in helping stabilize the region. "We have asked the U.S. government to provide leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilize Somalia," the president said, though he didn't provide details. The international community, including the U.S., has invested heavily in the current Somali government, believed to be the best hope for stability there.

Kenya has helped train some Somali troops and has tried several Somali pirates arrested in international waters. Mr. **Biden** said the U.S. would continue to support Kenya's efforts in their "shared challenges" in the region. He plans to deliver a speech Wednesday elaborating on the countries' ties before traveling to South Africa to attend the opening of the World Cup.

The U.S. relationship with Kenya has been contentious at times. Since ethnic violence erupted after the 2007 elections, Kenya has come under pressure to make changes that would defuse tensions. Among the changes the U.S. says are needed: eliminating corruption in the police force, improving accountability in the justice system and creating a new constitution that offers more checks on executive power.



Kenya's president has replaced the police commissioner, and a new draft constitution will be ready for a national referendum in August.

Still, deep fissures remain within the Kenyan government following the violence-marred elections in 2007. More than 1,300 people were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in the clashes, which sprang up along tribal lines. A power-sharing deal was cobbled together to end the violence, but the union is awkward at best and at times acrimonious.

On Tuesday, Mr. **Biden** met with both President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga. They gathered with other top U.S. and Kenyan officials around a large wooden table at Kenya's white-pillared presidential palace. Before the discussion began, Mr. **Biden** quipped: "As I told my staff, everything is settled." The joke drew laughs from around the table.

Write to Sarah Childress at [sarah.childress@wsj.com](mailto:sarah.childress@wsj.com)

### **Kenya Asks US To Lead Int'l Effort In Somalia (WP/AP)**

By Jason Straziuso, The Associated Press

[Washington Post](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI, Kenya -- Kenya's president asked the United States on Tuesday to lead a greater international effort to stabilize neighboring Somalia, while visiting U.S. Vice President Joe **Biden** said the U.S. is committed to helping Kenya see regional stability.

The request that the U.S. do more to combat rising militancy in Somalia comes three days after the arrests of two New Jersey men attempting to fly there. The two are charged with conspiring to kill, maim and kidnap persons outside the U.S. by joining al-Shabab, a Somali militant group designated by the U.S. in 2008 as a terrorist organization.

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki said Somalia is a high priority for both the U.S. and Kenya. The country hasn't had an effective central government in 19 years, a situation that has allowed militancy and piracy to flourish.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the U.S. government to provide leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilize Somalia," Kibaki said.

**Biden** said the U.S. recognizes that Kenya's long-term stability and development is tied to regional stability.

"I assured the president and the prime minister the United States supports Kenya's efforts to secure the border in the face of very real threats from those who wish to spread chaos through despair and violence," **Biden** said during a joint news conference at Kibaki's Nairobi residence.

**Biden** is in the East African nation, the birthplace of President Barack Obama's father, to press for political reforms in the country and discuss the situation in Somalia and Sudan.

If Kenya strengthens its rule of law, the country will open the door to greater U.S. aid and investment, **Biden** said, encouraging Kenya to continue with reforms initiated after the country's postelection violence. More than 1,000 people were killed after the December 2007 poll.

"Americans want to do business here, they want to travel here, and with the right climate, they will come," **Biden** said.

While her husband was at Nairobi's State House, Jill **Biden**, their daughter Ashley, 29, and granddaughter Maisy, 9, visited Kibera, the largest slum in the country.



There they heard testimonials from two women living with HIV and visited a girl who is part of a group of adolescents who have been trained with skills to enable them earn an income and cope with life in the rough slum.

The HIV-positive women and girls are beneficiaries of U.S.-funded organizations. Moving from one venue to another, Jill **Biden** trudged in ankle-high mud through a maze of alleyways. Her 20-minute walk brought business to a standstill.

The vice president and his wife later laid a wreath at a memorial for the 1998 bombing against the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. That bombing and a simultaneous one against the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Tanzania killed 224 people.

On Wednesday, the vice president is scheduled to give what he said would be a major speech on Kenya. The **Bidens** are also scheduled to visit Nairobi National Park to view wildlife before traveling to South Africa for the opening of football's World Cup later in the week.

**Biden** began his three-African nation tour on Monday in Egypt where he met with that country's leader, Hosni Mubarak, and discussed how their two countries and other allies can find ways to address the humanitarian, economic, security and political situation in Gaza.

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Associated Press writer Tom Odula in Nairobi, Kenya contributed to this report.

### **Biden In Push To Stabilise Volatile E. Africa (AFP)**

By Jean-Marc Mojon

[AFP](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI - US Vice President Joe **Biden** was to meet southern Sudan's leader in Nairobi Wednesday and also focus on troubled Somalia after discussing the fate of the volatile region with Kenyan leaders.

On the second leg of his trip to Africa, **Biden** highlighted Kenya's key role in stabilising a region that is threatened by chaos in Somalia and could see further upheaval if southern Sudan chooses independence in January.

"We recognise that Kenya's long term stability and development are tied to regional security and development, and the United States is committed to work with Kenya to achieve both those objectives," he said Tuesday, when he met Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

A dispute between the two Kenyan leaders following the 2007 presidential election triggered a wave of violence that left some 1,500 people dead and rattled a nation long seen as a beacon of stability in the region.

In recent months, US officials had been openly critical of Kenya's attempts to implement the political reforms demanded by the international community but **Biden** on Tuesday took heart in recent developments.

The coalition formed in 2008 by the formerly feuding Kenyan leaders had looked on the brink of collapse earlier this year but the uneasy partners eventually agreed on a draft constitution.

The document, a key demand of the United States and other international players who sponsored Kenya's power-sharing deal, is to be submitted to a referendum in early August.

**Biden** said he was "truly impressed by the mutual cooperation" between Odinga and Kibaki and added that a new constitution would appease foreign concerns over Kenya's political climate and stimulate a fresh wave of investments.



The vice president was expected to expand further on his country's reinvigorated partnership with Kenya during a keynote speech on Wednesday.

He was also scheduled to hold talks with southern Sudan's leader, Salva Kiir, who is expected to steer his semi-autonomous region towards a referendum on self-determination in January 2011.

The referendum is part of the 2005 peace deal that ended a two-decade civil war between the north and south of Africa's largest country.

A widely-predicted "yes" vote by the oil-rich south -- which has borders with the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia -- would have wide-ranging effects on the region.

**Biden** was also scheduled to hold a special meeting Wednesday on Somalia, where moderate Islamist President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has been mustering support for an offensive against an Islamist insurgency.

Washington has repeatedly voiced concerns that Somalia, two thirds of which is controlled by the insurgents, was becoming a new haven for Al Qaeda operatives.

Kibaki for his part reiterated his concerns over the threat posed to Kenya's border by Somalia's Islamist rebels and to the impact of growing Somali piracy.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the US government to provide the leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilise Somalia," he said.

### **Biden Praises Kenya, Discusses E.Africa Stability (AFP)**

By Jean-marc Mojon

[AFP](#), June 9, 2010

NAIROBI (AFP) - US Vice President Joe **Biden** praised Kenya's progress on internal reforms Tuesday and discussed means of stabilising the region, amid concerns over the situation in neighbouring Sudan and Somalia.

Washington has applied unprecedented pressure on its top regional ally Kenya to overcome its political disputes and implement a reform agenda decided in the aftermath of post-election chaos more than two years ago.

Most recent public comments by US officials had been openly critical of the Kenyan government's performance in tackling the long list of reforms it agreed to but **Biden's** assessment was more positive.

"Thank you ... for making me more optimistic than I had been about the prospect of this reform occurring," **Biden** said after meeting Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila Odinga and other cabinet members.

The coalition formed in 2008 by the formerly feuding Kenyan leaders had looked on the brink of collapse earlier this year but the uneasy partners eventually agreed on a draft constitution.

The document, a key demand of the United States and other international players who sponsored Kenya's power-sharing deal, is to be submitted to a referendum in early August.

**Biden** said he was "truly impressed by the mutual cooperation" between Odinga and Kibaki and added that a new constitution would appease foreign concerns over Kenya's political climate and stimulate a fresh wave of investments.

"Putting in place a new constitution and strengthening your democratic institutions and rule of law will further open the door to major US development programmes" and investment from US corporations, he said.



**Biden**, who said that "Kenya's best days are yet to come", predicted that fresh US investment in Kenya would also boost confidence from other parts of the world.

The vice president, whose tour of Africa started in Egypt and will also take him to South Africa, also said he was in Nairobi to discuss the eastern African region's stability.

"We recognise that Kenya's long term stability and development are tied to regional security and development, and the United States is committed to work with Kenya to achieve both those objectives," he said.

**Biden** was expected to expand on his government's strategic partnership with Kenya during a keynote speech on Wednesday.

He was also scheduled to meet Salva Kiir, the president of Sudan's semi-autonomous south, which is due to hold a referendum on self-determination in January 2011.

A widely-predicted decision by the southern oil-rich half of Sudan to acquire independence would have wide-ranging effects on the region.

**Biden** was scheduled to hold a special meeting Wednesday dedicated to the situation in Somalia, where moderate Islamist President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed has been mustering support for a major offensive against an Islamist insurgency.

Washington has repeatedly voiced concerns that one of Kenya's other troubled neighbours, Somalia, two thirds of which is controlled by the insurgents, was becoming a new haven for Al Qaeda operatives.

Kibaki for his part reiterated his concerns over the threat posed to Kenya's border by Somalia's Islamist rebels and to the impact of growing Somali piracy.

"This matter must be addressed with greater urgency. We have asked the US government to provide the leadership to forge a concerted international effort to stabilise Somalia," he said.

## **U.S. To Boost Kenya Investment After New Constitution (Update1) (BLOOM)**

By Sarah Mcgregor

[Bloomberg News](#), June 9, 2010

June 8 (Bloomberg) -- The passage of a new constitution in Kenya as well as the strengthening of democratic institutions will result in increased U.S. investment in the East African country, Vice President Joe **Biden** said.

"Americans want to do business here," **Biden** told reporters today in the capital, Nairobi. "With reforms this will come." He made the comments after talks with President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who are partners in Kenya's coalition government.

Kenyans will vote on Aug. 4 for a new constitution aimed at limiting presidential powers and narrowing ethnic divisions that were at the heart of post-election violence in 2008. A new constitution is the central element of a power-sharing accord that ended clashes in which an estimated 1,500 people died following the disputed December 2007 vote. The U.S. has backed the draft document, which it says will improve the prospects for democratic stability in Kenya.

Under the 2008 power-sharing agreement, Kibaki, an ethnic Kikuyu, secured a second five-year term as president and his political opponent, Odinga, of the Luo people, was installed in the newly created post of prime minister. The accord, brokered by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, committed the government to write a new constitution, improve courts and the police, and bring the worst perpetrators of the violence to justice.

Crimes Against Humanity



The Hague-based International Criminal Court will probably present cases against six Kenyans by the end of this year, following probes into crimes against humanity related to the post-election violence, ICC Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said on May 12. Moreno-Ocampo began his investigation into the clashes after Kenya, East Africa's biggest economy, failed several times to create its own special tribunal last year.

"Putting in place a new constitution and strengthening your democratic institutions and rule of law will further open the door to major American development programs such as the Millennium Challenge Account and will, I predict, bring about reinvestment by American corporations and international organizations in Kenya that can provide millions of dollars in assistance and grants," **Biden** said.

Kenya's political leaders have promised a new charter for more than two decades to replace a constitution that dates back to the country's independence from Britain in 1963.

#### Referendum

Kenyan lawmakers agreed on the draft constitution on April 1. The text must be approved in a referendum by a majority of Kenyan voters in order for it to become law.

About 57 percent of registered voters will approve the draft on Aug. 4, while 20 percent will reject it, according a survey of 6,017 people conducted by the Nairobi-based polling company Synovate published on June 4. The rest are undecided or won't vote, Synovate said. The margin of error was 1.6 percentage points, it said.

Supporters and opponents of the draft constitution have been trying to sway public opinion by holding public rallies. Both Kibaki and Odinga publicly back the draft text that will be put to voters in the August referendum.

In an interview with state-run Kenya Broadcasting Corp. on June 1, President Barack Obama urged Kenyans to turn out in large numbers for the referendum.

"I'm openly supporting the process," Obama said. "I'm not openly supporting the result." Obama's late father was a Kenyan from the Luo ethnic group.

In Kenya until June 10, **Biden** is also scheduled to deliver a speech on Kenya-U.S. relations, meet with Southern Sudanese President Salva Kiir and speak with the Somali diaspora about that country's peace process.

### **Obama To Meet Abbas As Gaza Fallout Mounts (AFP)**

By Stephen Collinson

[AFP](#), June 9, 2010

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas will ask President Barack Obama Wednesday for "bold decisions" on the Middle East but US-led peace moves face a torrid climate after Israel's Gaza flotilla raid.

Obama will welcome Abbas to the White House seeking to ensure regional fury over the May 31 Israeli commando strike does not doom indirect Israel-Palestinian talks that took months for Washington to organize.

He will also discuss American efforts to break through a "status-quo" on the blockaded Gaza Strip, which his administration describes as "untenable" following the deadly Israeli maritime raid, which killed nine Turks.



"The president looks forward to receiving president Abbas to review progress in the proximity talks and discuss our common efforts to achieve Middle East peace," said Tommy Vietor, a White House spokesman.

Obama also wants to "reinforce our strong support for the Palestinian Authority and its state-building effort, and review ideas for a long-term strategy towards Gaza."

Officials would not discuss possible areas of progress during the visit, which comes a week after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled his own White House trip to deal with the fallout from the Gaza crisis.

But Obama, still working through the recriminations over the raid, fierce international condemnation of Israel and his own previously tense relations with Netanyahu's government, has little obvious room for maneuver.

Abbas will arrive in the United States from Turkey, a US ally increasingly at odds with Washington over Middle East politics and Iran's nuclear program.

Ankara has also furiously condemned the Gaza flotilla raid.

The Palestinian leader last week set a clear rhetorical framework for his long-awaited summit with the US president.

"My message to Obama during our meeting in Washington next week will be that we need bold decisions to change the face of the region," Abbas said at an investment conference in the West Bank.

It remains unclear exactly what Obama can offer Abbas, other than a public embrace, a vow not to give up navigating the treacherous diplomatic thicket of the Middle East and some hope of future humanitarian gestures to Gaza.

"What Obama says in private to Abbas may be as important as what he says in public," said Michele Dunne, a former State Department official now at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

That private message may include Obama's assurances to stay the course, continue pressing Netanyahu and seek a commitment from the Israelis to enter direct talks after indirect, proximity consultations.

In public at least, Washington and the Abbas government are offering different interpretations on the current state of proximity talks with Israel brokered by US Middle East envoy George Mitchell.

Abbas has already suggested the talks are encountering "difficulties" and "lots of obstacles."

Washington has said the dialogue is "constructive" and "substantive," as it insists the talks must not be derailed by fallout from the Gaza crisis.

Vice President Joe **Biden** said in Egypt on Monday that Washington was looking for new ways to work on the "humanitarian, economic, security and political aspects of the situation in Gaza."

But the global controversy over what kind of inquiry should examine the showdown -- be it Israeli, international or a mixture of both -- is providing another headache for Obama's Middle East team.

Uncertainty also clouds the state of the Obama administration's relationship with the Israeli government.

Netanyahu's visit last week was intended as an attempt to move on from the highly unusual public disagreements, when the Israeli leader last called at the White House visit in late March.

He was denied a photo-op and the normal trappings of a foreign leader's visit during that appearance, amid a public spat over Israeli settlement building.

Despite public attempts to smooth over the row, and a US refusal to so far explicitly condemn Israel's actions on the flotilla, the state of relations between the two governments remains unclear.



"I think there are a lot of questions. I don't think the dispute that was opened by the previous visit has completely healed," Dunne said.

### **Flotilla Clash Still Making Waves In Middle East Politics (CNN)**

[CNN](#), June 9, 2010

(CNN) -- The political repercussions of Israel's raid of boats carrying aid to Gaza last week continued to ripple across the Middle East and showed no signs of slowing Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters outside an Asian security summit in Istanbul, Turkey, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the killing of nine Turkish activists by Israeli naval commandos aboard one vessel in the flotilla "will change many issues in the world" and marked the "final countdown" for Israel's existence.

"It shows that it has no room in the region, and no one is ready to live alongside it," he told reporters.

His comments came as more aid ships, some backed by regional powers, prepared to set sail.

Israel has said its naval blockade is in place to stop weaponry from reaching militants in Gaza intent on attacking Israel. But critics say the three-year blockade -- imposed after Hamas took over Gaza -- has deepened poverty in the Palestinian territory.

According to the United Nations, 80 percent of Gaza's population depends on food aid.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Monday that the country's Red Crescent Society would also try to break the Israeli blockade of Gaza by sending food and medical supplies to the besieged Palestinian territory, according to Iranian media. Red Crescent official Abdul Rauf Adibzadeh told Iranian media one shipment of relief goods would arrive in Gaza via Egypt by the end of the week.

Separately, a "Jewish boat" is planning to try to reach Gaza, two pro-Palestinian European Jewish groups announced Monday.

"Our purpose is to call an end to the siege of Gaza, to this illegal collective punishment of the whole civilian population," Edith Lutz said on behalf of European Jews for a Just Peace in the Near East, and Jews for Justice for Palestinians.

Meanwhile, thousands of tons of international aid, meant for Gaza but seized by Israel at sea, are languishing in an army base close to Tel Aviv. Wheel chairs and children's toys are among the goods.

Israel has screened the aid for banned materials, and is offering to transport the rest to Gaza by land.

But Hamas, the militant group which runs the territory, is refusing to take delivery in protest.

Israeli commandos intercepted the first convoy at sea May 31 and stormed the largest vessel, the Turkish-flagged Mavi Marmara.

On Saturday the Israeli military seized the MV Rachel Corrie, another aid ship, as it neared the Gaza coast.

The ships were carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza, organizers said.

U.S. Vice President Joe **Biden** said Monday that the present situation "is unsustainable for all sides," and that the Israelis and Palestinians needed to "move to direct negotiations as soon as possible that will result in an end to the occupation that began in 1967, and to a two-state solution to the conflict with Israel, and a Palestinian state living in peace and security."

The U.N. Security Council has called for an inquiry into the flotilla raid, and the U.N. Human Rights Council has condemned the assault and voted to launch an investigation.



Israeli officials have defended the legality of the raid, criticizing those aboard the Mavi Marmara for attacking the boarding party and insisting that they can handle the investigation themselves.

On Monday the Israeli military's chief of general staff has appointed a reserve general to lead "a team of experts" to examine Israel's interception of a flotilla bound for Gaza last week in order to "establish lessons from the event," the Israel Defense Forces said in a statement.

### **Anxious Gazans Trying To Leave Blockaded Territory (AP)**

By Karin Laub

[Associated Press](#), June 9, 2010

RAFAH, Gaza Strip - A Palestinian who had to delay graduate school in Malaysia and an elderly man forced to put off eye surgery in Egypt are among thousands anxiously trying to get out of Gaza now that the blockaded territory's gateway to the world has opened just a little.

A Hamas-run passenger terminal on the Gaza side of the border was packed on Tuesday with hundreds of Gazans trying to get clearance just to approach the crossing into Egypt. It was a chaotic scene, with stressed passengers arguing with overwhelmed Hamas border officials.

"Move back!" a Hamas official barked at the crowd from a hand-held microphone. Nearby, a black-clad policeman raised his club threateningly to cut short an argument with a middle-aged man.

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Many of Gaza's 1.5 million people have been forced to put their lives on hold during the three years the territory's borders were sealed by Israel and Egypt, following the violent takeover by the Islamic militant Hamas.

Now, following last week's deadly Israeli raid on a blockade-busting flotilla, there is a glimmer of hope the darkest days may be over. In the wake of the assault that killed nine pro-Palestinian activists, world leaders have demanded the embargo be lifted or loosened.

Egypt's promise to keep the Rafah crossing open every day, rather than just sporadically, marks the first tangible improvement.

But even that gesture comes with many strings attached.

Only those with foreign passports or residency, or people requiring medical treatment or accepted at foreign universities are eligible to cross into Egypt. It's the same restricted group as in the past, though the steady opening of the terminal over the past week has helped reduce a backlog of thousands.

For some in the crowd on Tuesday, it was the second or third attempt in as many days to get out, with much at stake.

Hani Ihlayyel has been stuck in Gaza since returning for a summer visit in 2006 after earning a degree in computer engineering from a college in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

His plan was to return to Malaysia for graduate school, but instead the blockade forced him to remain in Gaza, where he said he wasted four years with odd jobs, including buying and selling computers. Gaza has several colleges and universities, but many areas of study, like medicine and advanced computer technology, are not available.

Ihlayyel tried several times to leave via Rafah in the past, but could never get all the necessary documents together, including an Egyptian security clearance and a spot on the Hamas-controlled waiting list. With Egypt opening Rafah only a few days every month or so, that list swelled to more than 8,000 by the end of May.



By Tuesday, just over 3,000 Gazans had crossed into Egypt, and Ihlayyel felt he might have a chance. He arrived at the Gaza terminal at 6:30 a.m. local time and waited for his name to be called to receive a ticket for a seat on a bus taking him to the border crossing.

Three hours later, a Hamas official announced over a loudspeaker that no more tickets would be issued for Tuesday because four buses had already crossed and no more would be accepted by Egypt. Those in the terminal, Ihlayyel among them, were now waiting for tickets to cross Wednesday.

As the oldest of six brothers, Ihlayyel said he feels pressure to succeed and that his future depends on getting out of Gaza. He said his nerves are frayed because the stakes are so high and so much can go wrong.

"I am afraid of Hamas, of Egypt, of everything," he said, clutching a plastic envelope with his travel documents. "I'm scared, actually."

Najwa Asmar and her three children failed to cross Tuesday, their second attempt in two days, but were promised they would get on the first bus Wednesday.

"Of course, I'm disappointed. For the last three days, we didn't get any sleep or rest," Asmar said as her teenage son Mohammed loaded their suitcase onto the roof of a taxi for the 45-minute drive back to Gaza City. Asmar hopes to spend the summer with Egyptian relatives she hasn't seen for years.

Nearby, 77-year-old Adnan Mohanna stood in the sun, waiting for word from Egypt that he was cleared to travel.

Hamas border officials had warned him that a local doctor's note saying he required eye surgery wasn't enough to get him across the border. His Egyptian eye surgeon, who operated on him eight years ago, would have to send word to the Egyptian authorities, he was told.

Mohanna and the others were visibly frustrated, but just shrugged when asked whom they blamed for their predicament, apparently fearful a critical word might jinx their chances of getting out of Gaza.

An Egyptian border official said about 500 Gazans, or seven busloads, are to be allowed to leave every day. Senior Hamas officials are banned from traveling, according to Egyptian officials.

Egypt has cooperated with Israel in enforcing the blockade, in part because it has been fighting homegrown Islamic radicals since the 1990s and feared Hamas' militancy could spill into Egyptian territory. However, Egypt's role in maintaining the blockade has hurt its standing in the Muslim and Arab world.

In recent days, Egypt has tried to shift responsibility for the blockade to Israel. Egypt's renewed promise on Monday to keep the Rafah terminal open came as Vice President Joe **Biden** met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and called for new ways of dealing with Gaza.

On Tuesday, Israel rebuffed calls led by Turkey for an international inquiry into what caused last week's deadly raid, saying it would conduct its own investigation.

Israel staunchly opposes a complete opening of the Gaza border, fearing that would strengthen Hamas, branded a terror group by the West, and allow the Islamic militants to bring in weapons, including missiles that could hit all over Israel.

However, Israel has suggested it is willing to expand the list of several dozen basic humanitarian items it has permitted into Gaza since 2007, while continuing to ban all exports.

Some in Gaza fear that in the end the international community, led by the U.S., will settle for only cosmetic adjustments.



Iyyad Saraj, a psychiatrist and leading figure among Gaza's independents, said partial solutions, such as a proposal by France to inspect aid ships before they reach Gaza, will only prolong Israeli control of Gaza's gates.

"If there is any kind of courage and leadership and moral standing, now is the moment to end the siege," he said.

### **Delaware Candidate And Sen. Reid Are Fast Friends (HILL)**

By Sean J. Miller

[The Hill](#), June 9, 2010

Two months ago last week, Delaware Senate candidate Chris Coons (D) spoke to the Senate Democratic Conference during its weekly lunch.

"I gave about a 10-minute speech, got a standing ovation," Coons told The Ballot Box.

Appreciation wasn't the only thing he took away from the meeting.

"I've so far received about \$140,000 [in campaign contributions] from 30 sitting senators, which is a pretty substantial response," Coons said. "And a number of them have committed to hosting events for me."

To Coons's surprise, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) was one of the senators who offered to host a fundraiser. "He called and he offered," Coons said. "We've got a date and a place and everything."

Coons said he couldn't go into the details until Reid's office made the official announcement. But he sounded upbeat about their growing friendship. "He and I have developed a really great relationship. I've been very pleasantly surprised," he said. "I didn't know him before this."

"And we have these fairly long personal talks and he's a very straight-up, engaging guy who's very concerned about my family. We talked about values, about 'How do you manage it?' and balancing things."

Coons didn't expect to find the majority leader so personable, he said. "He's a very gentle, gracious person."

Several people told Coons that Reid has been talking him up during fundraising events for his own reelection campaign.

"I've been very pleasantly surprised to hear that from folks in New York and Chicago, as well as here several times," Coons said. "He's taken a real personal interest in the race."

Coons, the New Castle County executive, is expected to face Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.) in the general election. He's been trailing in some recent polls but says his campaign operation is gearing up thanks to some help from the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC).

Coming off a "cold start," Coons said the DSCC lent him staff to get his campaign up and running.

Still, he maintains he's managing his own race.

"They're very clear about, 'This is your race to win, we're here as a resource, we want to help you with strategic advice,'" Coons said. "But they are not telling me how to run or what positions to take."

From Vice President Joe **Biden** - Delaware's most famous Democrat - Coons said he'd received a "general offer of support and encouragement."

Reid's office did not respond to a request for comment.

### **Down With Celebrity Graduation Speakers! Up With Teachers! (WP)**

By Jay Mathews



[Washington Post](#), June 9, 2010

I am going to ignore veteran journalist Helen Thomas's comments about Israel and Palestine that led to her withdrawing as graduation speaker at Walt Whitman High, the nearest public high school to my home in Bethesda, Md. I am going to focus instead on a longstanding gripe of mine---revived by the Thomas controversy---and a solution that just occurred to me.

I don't like the competition among colleges and high schools to get big names to speak at grad night. The emphasis is always on how famous the person is. If your high school gets Joe **Biden**, you are feeling good until the rival high school gets Barack Obama. Is that oneupsmanship in tune with the values we want our children to learn?

I want to say for the record that my problem with the celebrity speaker game has nothing to do with the fact that I was disinvited as a graduation speaker by one high school a few years ago when one of its rivals snared Hillary Clinton. I had a happy childhood, am loved by my wife and am above such pettiness.

But it seems worth noting that the outsiders chosen to speak to the graduating class, including me (I have done it twice), tend to be bad at it. They don't know the school well. They have little clue about what the graduating seniors are interested in. Their themes are the usual march-toward-your-future pap. The thunderous applause they receive when they are done is usually motivated by relief that that part of the program is over and party time awaits.

Here is my idea: Ban celebrity speakers, even minor celebrities, from high school graduation. (This would also be good advice for colleges, but they are simply too full of themselves to listen.) Who should speak instead?

Those two times I spoke to a graduating class, I used a trick I learned from a clever politician I once saw in action at a student gathering. He has made some calls, or had his staff make some calls, asking about humorous incidents at school that year. Who had embarrassed himself in the fundraiser dunk tank? Which couples got locked in the gym after that dance? How had the baseball team lost its equipment on that road trip?

It was fairly innocent stuff which he fashioned into a few jokes that killed. The graduating class was unaccustomed to adults even caring about its pranks and pratfalls. To hear a stranger talking about such stuff was charming and engaging. Since I am a reporter, it wasn't hard for me to gather similar tidbits before I spoke. They went over well.

Sadly, the more important and famous the outside speaker, the less likely he or she will bother with such preparations. But there is one way to make sure an adult speaker can connect with the class at its level.

Don't ask the local state senator, or the school board chair, or the principal's cousin who had a top ten single in the 1980s to speak. Ask a teacher.

I don't mean any teacher. Every school has a significant number of educators who love students, who are skilled classroom entertainers and who know what the graduating class is talking about. Occasionally a school will pick someone like that if the person is about to retire, but why wait until they are on their way out? Why not get them in their prime?

I realize some principals cringe, and with good reason, at the idea of some of their more articulate teachers being given fifteen minutes to address a hall full of parents and community leaders. The best teachers often can't be tamed, or fired. It is difficult to predict what they will say.



But graduation speeches should be exciting. Everyone involved will have the whole summer to get over, or forget, whatever is said. Let's make it a rule that only teachers picked by the students can address the graduates, and ban boredom from such events forever.

I confess that the local school that bounced me as speaker found that it did not have enough time to get a really big name, and so went with a teacher. Maybe it was out of desperation, but I am told the guy did a wonderful job, one of the best graduation speeches anyone had ever heard.

So take that Secretary Clinton, and all your famous friends. A great teacher with a point of view has it all over you as the person to sum up a high school class. And you can pretty much count on the teacher to stay away from foreign policy issues, which may be just as well.